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# Strike, mourning mark

BETHLEHEM, occupied West lank (Agencies) — Israeli sol-lers kept watch Sunday from the oof of the Church of Nativity there Jesus was born, but few purists gathered for Christmas we celebrations.

Stores were closed because of a rotest strike called by the underand unified national leadaship of the uprising, which fireds the two-year-old revolt mainst Israeli rule. Slogans spray-painted in red

and black on city walls called for residents to boycott Christmas Eve celebrations and make it a "mourning day" for Palestinians billed in the uprising.

The highlight of the day's activities was expected to be a sermon by visiting South African Archbishop Desmond Tutu in nearby Shepherds' Field in Beit Sahour, where the first word of Jesus' birth was received by shepherds watching over their

flocks at night. In an interview, the 1984 Nobel Peace Prize winner told the associated Press: "We are praying so desperately that the ews and Arabs may find each other, that the Arabs can understand the Jews' anxiety about their continued existence and that the Jews can hear the cry of the

He added that he believed "there is no hope for peace" until their aspirations for statehood

Tutu's endorsement of a Palestinian state alienated many Israelis, and two chief rabbis refused to meet with the Anglican human rights activist. There were also fears his visit could provoke Palestinian demonstrations.

Latin Patriarch Monsignor Michel Sabbah led the traditional procession into the Church of Nativity which begin's the Christmas Eve ceremonies. He was accompanied to the door by Arab dignitaries and the Israeli military governor of the city who was

fressed in an olive drab uniform. The main streets of Bethlehem were empty except for soldiers and small groups of tourists.

Cars were barred from entering the town centre and visitors to Manger Square had to pass through a metal detector and were subject to searches.

Soldiers and police in groups of two and three with binoculars and automatic rifles took up positions on the roofs of most buildings, including the Church of Nativity, where celebrations culminate with a midnight mass in the Roman Catholic Chapel.

The only sign of celebration

band in blue uniforms which played Christmas carols for the 100 to 150 visitors in the square at

"I didn't expect so many police," said Anne Svoboda, a housewife from Ogallala, Nebraska, as she surveyed the tight security in Manger Square near the church that marks the manger site where the Bible says Jesus

was born. Christian leaders have declared Christmas a day of mourning in honour of around 600 Palestinians killed in the revolt. Six Arabs, including a 12-year-old Bethlehem boy shot four months ago by a Jewish settler, have died

in the past three days.

Arab merchants in Bethlehem kept their shops closed in response to the strike call by the leaders of the uprising. Bethlehem Mayor Elias Freij

criticised the strike, telling Israel radio: "I think to single out Bethlehem for a strike today is wrong. Jerusalem and the West Bank should have joined hands with

Freij appealed for "peace withdignity" for Palestinians. Despite all the sufferings that we have been subjected to, we have no hatred in our hearts," he

act" the actions of Israeli soldiers who reportedly confiscated and destroyed identity cards of

In an apparent effort to prevent Islamic fundamentalists from disrupting Christian services, soldiers also turned away Muslims who tried to enter the Manger Square.

Tensions heightened after the death Friday of 12-year-old Mohammad Jamil Kamel a boy shot in the neck Dec. 7 by a Jewish settler.

On Saturday, Muslim fundamentalists burned tyres and hurled stones in Bethlehem, prompting border police to close shops and clear the streets of everyone except tourists.

Elsewhere in the occupied lands, 14 Palestinians were wounded in clashes with Israeli soldiers.

Near the Al Aqsa Mosque, Islam's third holiest site, Tutu bowed his head in a moment of silent prayer at a stone platform built in memory of the Palestinians killed by Israeli-supported militiamen in 1982 at the Sabra and Shatilla refugee camps near

"We support the struggle of the Palestinian people in their long-ing for statebood," Tutu said.

### King sends message to Iraqi leader

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Sunday paid a brief visit to Baghdad and conveyed a verbal message from His Majesty King Hus-sein to Iraqi President Saddam Hussein "in the context of consulations and coordination between the two leaders on regional and international issues," the Jordan News Agency, Petra, re-

A Jordanian official quoted by Reuters said the King's message to the Iraqi leader "deals with Middle East developments, primarily issues related to the Palestinian cause.

The Crown Prince, who returned to Amman Sunday evening, was quoted by Petra upon his departure for Baghdad as saying

that he would brief the president on the outcome of his tour of a leader during the visit.

The ACC, which was launched on the outcome of his tour of a number of European capitals and the United States.

Jordan, the Crown Prince said, was making preparations for hosting a summit meeting by the leaders of the four-member Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) in February. This was also discussed by Prince Hassan with the Iraqi last February, groups Jordan. Iraq, Egypt and North Yemen. Prince Hassan said Jordan and Iraq were maintaining very strong brotherly relations within the ACC context. Jordan, he added, looks to Iraq and Iraq's strength as serving as a basis for collective

### Ceausescu loyalists fight for their lives in Bucharest

units loval to ousted Romanian leader Nicolae Ceausescu fought for their lives in Bucharest Sunday as church bells rang out across the capital to celebrate

Christmas. But there were signs that Ceansescu loyalists were starting to surrender in the western city of Timisoara, birthplace of the week-old national revolt in which the final death toll could run into

The National Salvation Front, which is leading the revolution, demanded an immediate ceasefire and said all but army troops must hand in their weapons by Monday evening.

In Budapest, the Hungarian Defence Ministry said pro-reform forces planned to launch an allout attack within a few days to snuff out all Ceausescu loyalists

But in Bucharest itself, grief tinged euphoria among thousands of Romanians who gathered in University Square or churches to celebrate Christmas, the ending of 24 years of hardline Ceausesc rule and to remember the dead.

"This Christmas we will mourn our dead heroes, hoping that the real joy will come later," said 21-year-old clerk Luminita Moga. The National Salvation Front, which is acting as an interim Ceausescu and his wife Elena

were under arrest. But on Sunday the shooting in central Bucharest intensified to some of the heaviest of the past three days there.

The fighting was concentrated mainly on Otopeni airport, 20 kilometres from the city centre, the television station and the central square with the presidential palace and the Communist Party central committee building.

Perched on the roofs of high buildings, prowling Bucharest's sewers or falling back to networks of underground tunnels in cemeteries and crypts, Ceausescu loyalists fired on anything that moved or launched hit-and-runattacks.

Fires ringed the centre of the capital after a night of intense

er, General Manuel Antonio

U.S. forces, which will be bol-

stered by 2,000 additional troops,

tightened control over the city

but faced "isolated resistance"

battalions, said Colonel Jerry Murgia, a spokesman for the

For a second night, the city was relatively calm. Only occasional

gunfire was heard and civilian

traffic appeared to pick up

"We're gaining control," said

Colonel James Swank of the Southern Command. "That's

that's true all over the city. I'm

not going to say we're under.

control. We're gaining control."
U.S. forces invaded Panama

early Wednesday in an effort to

protect Americans, restore

democracy and oust Noriega,

who is wanted in the United

States on drug trafficking

charges. The wily general has not

been found despite a \$1 million

reward for his capture.

U.S. Southern Command.

Noniega.

Sunday.

an unknown number of securitate secret police holed up in apartment blocks and hotels.

But Bucharest Radio said army units, who rained tank and machine-gun fire on loyalists pinned down in apartment blocks in the capital, controlled every strategic point in the country. Romanian army sources said

there appeared to be about 3,000 well-armed securitate troops fighting the new revolutionary government around the country, more than half in the capital. Lieutenant Colonel Georges

Ionesco told Reuters the securitate fighters were putting up stronger resistance than had been expected.
The securitate (secret police)

have one advantage over the army in that they were specially trained for street and house to house fighting," one Western military attache said. But Yugoslavia's Tanjug news agency said Ceanseson loyalists

had begun surrendering in Timi-The National Salvation Front, meanwhile, appealed for an immediate end to revenge killings

which it said had reached alarming proportions. The front said all those outside the army, which is now fighting

with the pro-reform group, 1500 GMT Christmas day. Ion Iliescu, president of the

front which has been acting as an interim government since Ceausescu was ousted on Friday, made the appeal on Bucharest television and radio.

Despite the bloodshed, thousands of Romanians gathered on Bucharest's University Square, many waving the blue, yellow and red Romanian flag with a hole in the middle where the Communist symbol had been cut out.

Hundreds more ponred into the Biserica Alba and Belasa churches on Christmas eve to light candles and pray for the dead - estimated by the National Salvation Front revolutionary leadership to number 1 000 in the past three days in Bucharest

**Panama returns to normal** 



Romanian protesters burn the photo of deposed leader Nicolae Седивеяси

Hungary said it was reinforcing its border with Romania to prevent incidents involving Ceauses-

across Hungarian territory. In Moscow, Kremlin leader Mikhail Gorbachev appeared to rule out Soviet military intervention, saying the leader of the pro-reform Romanian armed forces had announced that there was no need for foreign help.

The United States and France said they supported the front as the legitimate government of Romania.

Iran, which last week gave a red carpet welcome to Ceausescu, expressed support Sunday for the popular uprising which toppled the Romanian leader.

The Swiss government, meanwhile, has ordered a freeze on any assets Ceausescu might have in Swiss banks, the Justice Ministry said

Free elections in April will select a phiralistic, democratic government to replace the oneby Ceausescu. A committee will draft a new constitution ending the cult of

has announced it will implement.

cu's era, guaranteeing human rights and a free press, and ensuring full equality for minority groups. Ceausescu's plan to demolish

personality that marked Ceauses-

villages in favour of huge agroindustrial complexes will be scrapped.

Romania's economy will be restructured to promote free initiative. Education will become democratic and humanistic.

The country will continue to honour its commitments to the Warsaw Pact and will be called Romania rather than the Socialist

Republic of Romania. Exports of food will stop while oil exports will be reduced.

# Amal, Hizbollah fight on despite Iranian truce call

SIDON, Lebauon (AP) — Rival Shi'ite Muslim factions ignored a ceasefire appeal from Iran Sun-day and fought herce battles for a second day in hills above the Reini coastal highway linking Beaut with South Lebanon.

Police said 13 people were killed and 25 wounded in the battles between Hizbotlah (Party of God), and Amal in Idim Al Tuliah. That brought the toll in two days to 30 killed and 70 wounded.

It also mised the overall figure to 601 killed and 1,649 wounded since May 1987, when the power struggle crupted between the two factions touching off intermittent confrontations in Beirut and South Lebanos. In west Beirut, fighters of the hanian-backed Hizbolish and the

pro-Syrian Amal clashed briefly overnight in the main commercial horoughfare of Hamra.

when Amai militiamea firing when Amal militiamen firing machine gins and rocket-propelled grenades tried to storm a Hizbollah religions centre.

A dozen Hizbollah guards defending the centre-beld off attackers for four hours before Syrian troops moved in and enforced a

Several cars were wrecked during the attack and the steel shutters of several boutiques, supermarkets and groceries were blown off.

Police said there were no casualties in the clash, markedly less serious than the battles that have raged since dawn Saturday in Iqlim Al Tuffah, or the apple province.

Mohammad Ali Bisharati. Iran's deputy foreign minister, flew from Tehran to the Syrian capital, Damascus, Saturday and declared a ceasefire at midnight (2200 GMT) after meetings with Amal leader, Nabih Berri, who is minister of hydranlic and water resources, and Sheikh Subhi Tofeili, one of Hizbollah's leading cletics.

But the fighting raged on. Arnal rushed reinforcements from Beirut to the south Sunday. An estimated 2,500 fighters, backed by tanks, counterattacked Hizbollah under a barrage of heavy artillery and recaptured two villages, Mjaidel and Kfar Hatta, which had fallen Saturday,

police said. The fighting later centred by Hizbollah -- Kfar Milki and Kfar Kila, about eight kilometres northeast of Sidon, povincial capital of South Lebanon.

Reporters who toured Kfar Hatta said shell pocks and bullet scars marked almost every house in the village of 2,000 inhabitants. Broken power cables dangled on smoldering cars.

Amal's military commander in Kfar Hatta, Mashour Ghossein, told reporters: "We will stop fighting only when we regain every inch of territory seized by Hibollah yesterday (Saturday).

The four embattled villages sit atop a chain of strategic hills that: control the main supply routes to Hizbollah's strongholds further south in the townships of Joaa, 'Ain Bouswar and Jarjou.

These Shi'ite-populated towns have long been used by Hizbollah guerrillas as launching pads for attacks against the Israeli-backed South Lebanon Army militia in Israel's self-designated "security

Amal opposes guerrilla warfare against Israel on grounds it provokes reprisals against the predominantly Shi'ite south.

# Fahd, Isa 🥱 dispute

BAHRAIN (R) — The emir of Bahrain, Sheikh Isa Ben Salman Al Khalifa, and Saudi Arabia's King Fahd held talks Sunday attended by large official delegations from both countries, Bahrain radio said.

Diplomats said the talks — attended by Bahrain's prime minister, crown prince, foreign and interior ministers - were aimed at resolving the country's longstanding territorial dispute with Qatar.

Sandi Foreign Minister Prince Sand Al Faisal Sunday joined the visiting Sandi delegation, which includes Oil Minister Hisham Nazer and King Fahd's son Prince Abdul Aziz.

King Fahd arrived in Bahrain Saturday, two days after the annual summit of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) and in the wake of an announcement that Saudi Arabia and Oman had agreed on a clear demarcation of

The Bahrain-based Gulf news agency said King Fahd left for Riyadh after talks with Sheikh Isa on "warm brotherly relations" between the two countries, developments in Gulf and Arab arenas, GCC issues and other topics of mutual interest.

amid 'isolated resistance' PANAMA CITY (Agencies) the first signs of people trying to put their lives together after the invasion. At a few stores open Some stores and petrol stations reopened Sunday as life in the war-torn capital showed signs of Saturday, long lines of shoppers returning to normal five days after U.S. troops invaded Pana-ma and toppled its military leadwere guarded by American

troops.

Murgia said engagement by U.S. troops in the city has declined.

"Panamanians are arming themselves and setting up roadblocks around their communities,' he said. "It's better than us doing from armed remnants of. it for them. Small groups of pro-Noriega's paramilitary dignity Noriega forces will likely to continue to oppose U.S. forces using hit-and-run tactics."

"Casualties continue to be light, considering the widespread threat and nature of urban combat," he said. At a gas station in the El Dora-

do neighbourhood of Panama Cuty, groups of Panama Defence Forces (PDF) soldiers were captured by local people and turned over to U.S. forces in small groups, the Southern Command

The arrival of additional U.S. troops Sunday brought total U.S. forces to about 26,000, officials

A key military commander charged with drug smuggling along with Noriega has pledged loyalty to the new government and said he will submit himself to U.S. military authorities.

City streets remained strewn with rubbish after days of exten-Colonel Luis Del Cid, commander of the 5th military zone, sive looting. But more stores and also has urged that his officers be gas stations reopened Sunday in

considered during formation of a Panamanian military force to re-place the routed forces of

Noriega.

Del Cid made the comments in a news conference Saturday in the western provincial capital of David\_

U.S. troops had not reached David, 330 kilometres west of Panama City, by early Sunday. The commander ordered David's airfield blown up Wednesday to prevent the landing of U.S. air-

Notiega along with Del Cid and 14 others were indicted on drug charges in U.S. federal court in Miami in February 1988. The U.S.-installed civilian gov-

ernment of President Guillermo Endara began forming a security force to quell looting and lawlessness in the streets.

The number of U.S. servicemen killed in the four days of

fighting rose to 25. Two American dependents also have been killed, 241 troops wounded and one was missing.
The U.S. military said 139 Panamanian soldiers have died

and 95 have been wounded.

At least 260 Panamanian civihans have been killed, according to Dr. Elmer Miranda, director of Santo Tomas hospital. Endara, sworn in as president

Wednesday at the start of the invasion, said in an interview he did not agree with the intervention but could work with the U.S.

### The National Salvation Front Arafat, Mubarak hold talks

CAIRO (R) — Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat held talks with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak in Cairo Sunday on plans for preliminary Middle East peace talks in Washington. Mubarak, who is mediating be-

tween the PLO and Israel, received Arafat at his residence Journalists were kept well away from the residence, but officials aid the talks focused on Washington's offer to hold tripartite negotiations next month with Egypt and Israel.

Our talks with the PLO are... to prepare for the next step," an Egyptian Foreign Ministry source told Reuters.

U.S. Secretary of States James Baker has proposed meeting the Israeli and Egyptian foreign ministers in Washington to thrash out terms for the first-ever Israeli-Palestinian dialogue.

Israel and Egypt have both been in touch with Washington in the past few days "to set the ground for the meeting and the issues to be discussed," the

The PLO says it must have the final say on the composition of any Palestinian negotiating team, while Israel says the PLO can have no role in peace talks. Arafat was met at Cairo airport

by Osama Al Baz, Mubarak's top political adviser

# Egypt, Syria to mend schism

CAIRO (R) — Old rivals Egypt and Syria are poised to resume relations, mending a decade-old fracture in Arab ranks, diplomats and political analysts said Sunday.

"Both countries have good reason to bury the hatchet," one Western envoy. "But differences remain to be sorted out."

Egyptian presidential sources said Saturday that Egypt's President Hosni Mubarak and Syria's President Hafez Al Assad would meet soon and announce a resumption of relations.

Analysts said Syria now felt uncomfortably isolated. It was under pressure over its role in Lebanon's civil war while its uncompromising diplomacy had been partially eclipsed by the Palestinian uprising in the Israelioccupied territories.

Egypt knows any Middle East settlement actively opposed by Syria is worthless," said the envoy. "While Damascus knows its voice carries little weight if it stays the odd man out.

Syria and Libya are the only Arab states to have held out against restoring ties with Cairo, severed because of Egypt's 1979 treaty with Israel.



Syrian Vice-President Abdul Halim Khaddam, arriving in Cairo Saturday on the first official visit by a senior Syrian leader for more than a decade, indicated that ties were on the mend. He said Assad and Mubarak

would meet shortly "to correct the path of ties between the two

An Egyptian minister, asked if Khaddam's remark meant the restoration of diplomatic rela- Israeli-Palestinian talks.



Hafez Al Assad

tions, replied that it did. Mubarak, playing the role of arbiter in regional crises and disputes, has worked hard to reintegrate Egypt into the Arab mainstream while retaining ties with

The analysts said it would be some time before Syrian and Egyptian leaders could reconcile differing views towards current U.S.-sponsored proposals for

Syria wants a comprehensive Middle East solution arranged by an international peace conference and an Israeli withdrawal from all Arab lands occupied in war.

It opposes Israeli attempts to lure Arab states into separate negotiations and is critical of Israel's offer of limited self-rule to Palestinians in the Gaza Strip and West Bank.

For its part, Egypt has offered to host the first-ever Palestinian-Israeli dialogue and is trying to narrow differences between the two sides by supporting a U.S. proposal for preparatory Israeli-

Egyptian talks in Washington. Of the four Arab states bordering Israel, Syria and Egypt pos-sess the most powerful armed

Ever since a brief union between the two states from February 1958 to September 1961 ended in acrimony, they have had a love-hate relationship.

While their forces joined in battle against Israel in 1973, Syria felt it had been misled by Egypt's limited objectives and relations sank to an all-time low with the subsequent signing of the Egypt-Israel treaty.



V-FOR-VICTORY: Young Palestinian boys in Ramaliah cover their faces with their shirts and make boy hurls a stone and a tyre burns in the background.

### 2 more Sudanese convicted of bid to smuggle currency

KHARTOUM (AP) — A special military court has convicted two more Sudanese civilians of attempting to smuggle foreign currency out of the country, a crime that carries the death

penalty. The court said a verdict was to be issued later.

On death row is Maamoun Mohamad Hussein, convicted of leading a one week strike by physicians last month. The strike was in protest over the detention of colleagues in military jails and the dismissal of physicians from government posts.

A military court sentenced Hussein last week.

A 15-man military junta headed by Omar Ahmad Hassan Al Bashir overthrew the civilian government of Prime Minister Sadeq Al Mahdi in a bloodless coup last

Magdi Mahgoub Mohammad Ahmad was hanged last weekend after being convicted by a milit-

### JAE gets 13 French jet fighters

ABU DHABI (R) — France delivered 13 Mirage 2000 jet fighters to the United Arab Emirates (UAE) this month as the first part of a \$2.3 billion deal for 36 of the planes, Western diplo-

mats said Sunday. The UAE said earlier it had received part of the long-delayed order during a visit this month by French Defence Minister Jean-Pierre Chevenement, but did not say how many.

The diplomats said the UAE would be receiving another plane almost every month until the full order was complete by the end of

The deal was signed in 1986 but held up after the UAE asked for the planes to be fitted with U.S. Sidewinder missiles. The diplomats said France agreed to make technical modifications to fit the missiles.

France planned to increase its oil imports from the UAE, the diplomats added. They were unsure if oil would help finance the Mirage deal.

Western defence analysts previously put the UAE airforce at 40 combat aircraft and 25 helicop-

ary court of black-marketeering in foreign currency.

Another Sudanese civilian,

Saeed Mohammad Jaballa, was hanged along with Ahmad at the same prison Sunday. Jaballa was convicted of drug trafficking.

Ahmad was sentenced to death early this month along with Ali Beshir Marioud, also convicted of the same charge but no date for his execution was announced yet.

U.S. officials said in Washington they had been urging Sudan to repeal the death sentences. "We have discussed these cases with the government of Sudan in

private diplomatic channels and we continue to do so," said an official at the U.S. State Depart-U.S. law mandates cutting of aid to countries whose democratic government have been over-

tion has withheld such action in hopes the new rulers would act to resolve the country's civil war and human rights problems. Amnesty International said in a report last week that murder and

torture continue in Sudan since

hrown, but the U.S. administra-

the military takeover. Talks between rebels in south Sudan and the central government in Khartoum collapsed ear-lier this month. The rebels have been fighting since 1983 for grea-

ter autonomy. The military tribunal said Saturday it had found Girgis Butrus, an assistant pilot with the Sudan Airways, and Mohammad Al Rashid, a driver at Khartoum airport, guilty of attempting to illegally take amounts of different currencies out of the country but deffered issuing a sentence until

Authorities said Butros was arrested while he was about to embark on a passenger plane in possession of amounts of foreign currencies. They said Rashid handed the money over to the assistant pilot at the airport.

The court said the acts committed by Butrus and Rashid constituted subversion of the Sudanese economy. No defense counsel is allowed in military tribunals.

#### Supplies reach Malakal

For the first time since February, a barge convoy carrying con-sumer goods had reached the southern town of Malakal whose inhabitants are facing acute shortages of food, the Sudan News Agency reported Sunday.

The convoy's military escort repelled an attack by the rebel Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) on the barges but there were no casualties reported on either side, SUNA added.

The agency said jubilant in-habitants of Malakal welcomed the barge convoy which carried 45,000 tons of sorghum, sugar. cooking oil and laundry soap.

Malakal is capital of the south-

ern Upper Nile region. It is 680 kilometres south of Khartoum. The last commercial barge con-

voy reaching Malakal was last February.

### Algerian party to elect new politburo

ALGIERS (R) — Algeria's ruiing party began meeting Sunday to prepare for multi-party elec-tions next year and elect a new politburo to oversee the reform jedid.

"The essential task is cohesion around the policies of the president," Revolution Africaine, the weekly organ of the national Li-beration Front (FLN), declared this week.

Analysts are watching carefully to see the make-up of the powerful politburo following the twoday meeting of the central committee. Several old guard companions of former hardline President Houari Boumedienne made an unexpected comeback at a special party congress at the end of November.

The return of such figures as former Industry chief Abdul Salam Belaid, ex-Foreign Minister Abdul Aziz Bouteflika and former party boss Mohammad Salah Yahiaoni shocked many ordinary Algerians who thought Benjedid had greater control of

liberal reforms were in no way if some of these old faces limits of the president's power.

SANAA (R) — Tens of ing a united Yemen, the radio thousands of North Yemenis desaid. monstrated Sunday in support of speedier measures to merger their country and South Yemen, Radio Sanaa reported.

It was the biggest show of popular support for unity plans since leaders of the pro-Western North and Marxist-ruled South signed a draft joint constitution three weeks ago.

The demonstrators, chanting "one people not two" and "no to ' waved banners urging leaders of the two countries to speed up the timetable for form-

OIC talks in Tehran

Satanic Verses.'

North Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh told the crowd: 'We promise you that the leadership in the two sectors of Yemen will work as one team. There will be no difference after today."

"Sanaa and Aden have met and will embrace each other for ever. For ever. That is our historic aim," said Ali Salim Al Baidh. secretary-general of South Yemen's ruling Socialist Party.

Baidh, accompanied by a large delegation including Aden's in-

MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

Yemenis seek speedier merger message terior and oil ministers, arrived in Sanaa earlier to pursue negotiations with Saleh on implementing of peace the unity agreement.

The draft constitution is to be submitted to the two parliaments for approval with six months, followed by a referendum within a further six months to endorse it.

The two Yemens have already pulled back troops from border areas and representatives met in Sanaa last week to draft banking, foreign trade and financial guidelines for the proposed unified

### to Lebanon VATICAN CITY (AP) — Pope John Paul II called Christmas Eye "wait full of hope" as he

Pope sends

blessed a giant Christmas free? and creche in St. Peter's Square. The Pope also Sunday sent a message addressed to "all a Lebanese in whatever commune ity" saying the country was con-

stantly in his thoughts.

John Paul, who later was to celebrate midnight mass in St Peter's Basilica, greeted about 10,000 pilgrims and tourists. gathered for his Sunday noon

The Pope spoke from his apartment window, looking out on a 30-metre-high tree from Austria, and a Nativity scene with ine-size figures in the centre of the

He said Christmas Eve was a "wait full of hope as we prepare us as saviour of the world."

Wars, rivalries, arrogance and selfishness were obstacles to peace, the Pope said, but "the optimism of hope is not naive." The Vatican said the Pope's

midnight mass was to be televised to about 50 nations. These include for the first time East Germany, a sign of the vastley improved relations between the Vatican and Sovet bloc countries On Christmas Day, the Pope is

to celebrate another mass in St-Peter's and then deliver his traditional message "urbi et orbi" latin for "to the city (of Rome) and the world."

John Paul had met Sasturday with an Arab League delegation seeking to mediate an end to the Lebanese crisis. A week ago, the Pope was criticised by Lebanese leftists for failing to receive the mediators.

In his message Sunday, sent to Maronite Catholic Patriarch Nasrallah Pierre Sfeir, the Pope expressed his support for efforts to overcome the "grave problems that are delaying the return w normalcy sought by sill Lebanese."

The Pope has repeatedly con-demned fighting this year be-tween mostly Christian troops and Syrian and allied forces which has killed hundreds of people and has appealed to all sides to seek a negotiated settlement

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### hanged in Iran

NICOSIA (AP) — Seventeen alleged drug traffickers, including an Iranian woman and an Indian national, were hanged Sunday in three Iranian cities.

Tehran Radio, monitored in Nicosia, said the defendants had been tried and sentenced by Islamic courts for "smuggling and peddling" 1,000 kilogrammes of hashish, opium and heroin. Light arms and ammunition were found in their possession, it said.

The broadcast said those hanged included a woman and an Indian national. Seven were hanged in Tehran, five in Mashhad and five in Kerman, it said.

In a separate report, the radio said 300 drug smugglers and more than 350 addicts were arrested in a 24-hour crackdown that ended Sunday morning.

Iran says it has arrested thousands of smugglers and pushers and executed at least 1,000 of them since authorities launched a nationwide anti-

narcotics campaign last year. But the London-based Amnesty International, which monitors human rights violations worldwide, has said many political prisoners were among those executed

In Iran, drug smuggling is punishable by death. Under a law passed by parliament a year ago, anyone caught in the posses of even small quantities of narcotics faces the death sentence.

Official reports say one million people of the total population of 50 million are involved in drug abuse. Other unofficial estimates say the figure is double that.

the party. Benjedid's supporters said threatened. But analysts said that appeared in the politburo, it would clearly demonstrate the

Benjedid's sweeping economic and political reform package was speeded up after bloody youth riots shook the country in Octo-

**JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR** 

### 4 killed in Turkish crash

ABU DHABI (R) - The Organisation of

Islamic Conference (OIC) will meet in Tehran Tuesday to discuss human rights, WAM news

agency said Sunday. The 44-nation group will

meet for three days to debate an Islamic human

rights document, the official agency of the United

attacked the OIC for not supporting the religious

decree ordering the death of British author Salman Rushdie for alleged blasphemy in "the

rab Emirates said. Earlier this year, Iran-

ANKARA (R) — Four Turkish railwaymen were killed Sunday when a passenger train rammed into a freight train which had stalled on a single track with engine failure, the semi-official Anatohian news agency said. Three people were injured and six carriages were smashed in the accident near Pozanti in southern Adana province, southeast of Ankara.

#### Waite's brother hopeful

LONDON (AP) — David Waite said Sunday he believes there is "a lot of hope" now for the eventual release of his brother, Terry, and other hostages in Lebanon because of events this year in Britain, Iran and the United States. He said he had been encouraged by the election of a new Iranian president, the inauguration of a new American president and a letter he received recently from British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd which outlined an avenue for improved Anglo-Iranian relations. "I felt it was quite an important letter because he was saying in fact that as long as Iran was ready to use her influence to secure the release of Terry and the other

Waite is one of 18 foreigners and four Britons missing in Lebanon. Ethiopian rebels take town

Broadcasting Corporation radio interview. Cit-

ing the new administrations of Iranian President

Hashemi Rafsanjani and U.S. President George

Bush as well as Hurd's letter, he said: "So there's

been a lot of change and a lot of hope, I feel, for

the future," Terry Waite, 50, the special envoy of

Archbishop of Canterbury Robert Runcie, dis-

appeared on Jan. 20, 1987, after leaving his west Beirut hotel to negotiate with the Islamic

Jihad for the release of two American hostages.

No group has claimed to hold him, but he is

widely believed to be held by Islamic Jihad.

#### NAIROBI (AP) - Ethiopian rebels, in a steady push southwards, claimed Sunday they controlled

a garrison town they captured last week in central Ethiopia. The Tigre People's Liberation Front said in a clandestine broadcast Mehal Medan fell Friday after "ferocious fighting." The broadcast was monitored in Kenya's capital, Nairobi. It was impossible to independently verify the rebel claim. Mehal Medan is located 160 kilometres north of Addis Ababa and 76 kilometres west of one of the two highways that connect the capital with the Red Sea port of Assab. Assab is one of Ethiopia's two ports and is home to the country's sole oil refinery. The TPLF broadcast gave no casualty figures for either side, only saying an unidentified officer commanding government troops fled by helicopter. If the rebel claim is true, Mehal Medan would be the fourth town the TPLF fighters have seized in Shoa province since late August when they broke out of Tigre province, Shoa's northern neighbour. The TPLF has been fighting since 1975 to press for increased autonomy and President Mengistu Haile Mariam's ouster. The rebels control Tigre after forcing the government to withdraw early this year. The government and the TPLF have held two sessions of preliminary peace talks. The last session ended Dec. 19 in Rome, Italy, with both sides agreeing to meet in March.

#### hostages, Britain would look to improve their ber 1988. Mismanagement and relationships with Iran," Waite said in a British corruption within the FLN were

#### JORDAN TELEVISION Tel: 773111-19

.... Programme review Children programmes ary in Arabic World News 28:00 18:65 19:15 19:40 20:00 20:30 21:30 Local programme Programme review .. Arabic series Programme review

PROGRAMME TWO

News in French ...... Weekly Sport magazine
...... News in Hebrew 19:39 19:45 Perfect Strangers 21:10 Onasis. The Richest Man in the News in English
..... The Alamo

..... Des Chiffres et de lettres

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#### PRAYER TIMES

14:20

### CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Sweifich Tel. 810740 Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 632785. St. Joseph Church Church of the A De la Saile Chard Anglican Church Tel. 625383, Tel. 628543. Armenian Catholic Church Tel. Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. Syrian Orthodox Church Tel. 771751.

Ammen International Church Tel. Evangelicai Lutheran Church Tel: 811295. Day Salatz Tel. 815817, 654932.

#### WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

It will be fair with the appearance of some clouds at different altitudes and winds will be southeasterly moderate. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.

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Dr. Nabil Al Mulitaseb	828252
Dr. Adnan Zaghloni	898140
Dr. Mohammad Awad	741391
Dr. Yousef Rashed	896301
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Ferdows pharmacy	778336
Al Asema pharmacy	637055
Nairoukh pharmacy	623672
Al Salam pharmacy Yacoub pharmacy	636730
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IRBID:	
Dr. Shihda Al Zagh	(—)

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EMERGENCIES Civil Defence Department Civil Defence Immediate 661111 630341 Fire Brigade Blood Bank

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Highway Police .... Public Security Department ... Hotel Complaints ..... Price Complaints ..... 630321 661176 Water and Sewerage 787111 (directory assistance) 62310

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#### HOSPITALS

AMMAN: Abanan; Hussein Medical Centre ..... 813813/32 Khalidi Maternity, J. Ann .... 64281/6 Akileh Maternity, J. Ann .... 642441/2 Jabal Annaan Maternity ...... 642362 ..... 642362 ..... 636140 Maihas, J. Amman Palestine, Shmeisan Shmeisani Hospital ... University Hospital ... Al-Mussher Hospital . 669131 667227/ The Islamic, Abdali Al-Ahli, Abdali Italian, Al-Muhajreen ... Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafich . 6641644 775111/26 Azory, Marka a Alia Hospital ... Queen Alia Hospital Zarga Govt. Hospital ..... (09)983323

(02)275555 eess Basma Hospital

#### FOR THE TRAVELLER **QUEEN ALIA**

Princess Haya Hospital .... (03)314111

AOABA:

INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Oueca Alia International Airport Tel. (06)53200-5, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

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### Romanians in Jordan rally behind revolt

By Nermeen Murad Joedan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN - Over 100 peaceful demonstrators carried candes and chanted Romanian songs to express their support for the Romanian revolution and their solidarity with the National Salvation Front. which took over after a people's revolt toppled hardline Communist leader Nicolae Ceansescu this week.

The Romanian community in Jordan, which numbers over 700 Romanians, mostly women, also expressed its sorrow at the large number of deaths during the revolution which started in earnest Friday.

"We decided to meet here to burn candles for the people who died there, especially the children." Stela Al Sabbagh, a Romanian native married to a Jordanian, told the Jordan Times outside the Romanian embassy in Jabal Luweibdeh. Sabbagh also said that

Romanians living in Jordan were trying to find a way to help their compatriots. "Maybe we can donate blood or money... we are proud of our people," she said.

Romania's ambassador to Jordan, Dimitrie Stanescu, ioined the demonstrators in

their celebrations and pledged his allegiance to the National Salvation Front. He said that Romania was now "living a historical moment. The Ceausescu gang, who lead the country to disaster, has been eliminated from power."

He told the Jordan Times in brief interview at the footsteps of the embassy that the Foreign Ministry in Bucharest had supported the revolution and expressed its support for

the National Salvation Front. "Our Foreign Ministry has already sent a message to the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan expressing its firm decision to act for the implementation of the front's policy... in a man-ner which would establish and affirm the dignity and the aspiration of freedom, friendship, peace and international understanding," the ambassador said.

Several women among the demonstrators wept openly as speeches were made denouncing of Ceausescu and praising the Romanian people. Almost of the women and men interviewed said they were very surprised that there was a revolution at all.

"I personally thought they were cowards because they were always silent... but not now... now I know that they



Members of the Romanian community living in Jordan stage a demonstration in Amman Sunday

are very brave people," Sab-

bagh said. One woman maintained that she had expected change in Romania and said that she was

surprised at the timing of the revolution. "It came very quickly, I couldn't believe it." Asked whether the embassy

expected the revolution, Stanescu evaded giving a direct answer. "The evolution of any society requires change and development and this is what

four members of the Arab Coop-

eration Council (ACC) will open

their third meeting in Amman

Jan, 10 to discuss issues pertain-

ing to the implementation of an

A spokesman for the Housing

Corporation said that the agree-

ment was endorsed by the ACC

summit held recently in Sanaa,

ACC agreement on housing.

happened in Romania," he

The Romanian crowd, joined by Jordanians who have studied in the East European country, carried banners hailing Romania's freedom and condemning Ceausescu as "a kid's killer.

There are more than 6,000 Jordanians who attended University in Romania since 1974. The new programme of the Romanian government covers

a series of measures aimed at

mittees to prepare the necessary

mechanism for its implementa-

tion. The agreement calls for

unification of standards and spe-

cification for housing purposes

and streamlining organisational

plans by the four countries in

housing affairs, as well as the

establishment of a data bank to

provide information on housing

and reconstruction.

assuring the populations with public and political freedoms as well securing basic services and food for the people of

The programme includes proposals to abolish the leading role of a single party and the establishment of a pluralist democratic system of government, the organisation of a tree elections in the month of April, and the separation of the legislative, executive and judicial authorities.

According to the spokesman,

the unification of terms and con-

ditions include in contracts for

engineering projects and con-

tractors' work, as well as unifica-

tion of legislations and an ex-

change of visits and coordination

The ministerial meeting will be

preceded by a meeting by the

ACC's follow up committee, be-

in international conferences.

#### **Housing talks set for Amman** He said that the four countries AMMAN (Petra) — Ministers of housing and reconstruction of the had already set up technical comthe agreement also provides for

where the ministry has made arrangements for their accommodation. One of the pilgrims delivered a speech on the occasion expressing appreciation to Jordan for its facilities and help.

Attending the celebration were senior officials, including the Balqa governor and officials from the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic

The ministry has provided facilities at a pilgrims camp in the Jordan Valley for the convenience of the pilgrims during the pilgrimage season when they cross into Jordan or when they

Jordanian participants entitled Arab World. "Scientific Coordination in Arab Cooperation Council (ACC)." North Yemen and Egypt, discussed the paper, which calls for

day reviewed a working paper by

AMMAN (J.T.) — Participants four countries through the help of in an Arab Youth Forum (AYF) researchers and scientists and meeting which started here Satur- dwelt in particular on means of ensuring food security for the

Yarmouk University President Ali Mahafza delivered a lecture The participants, all from the to the audience on the Great ACC, which groups Jordan, Iraq, Arab Revolt and its causes and resuits.

Later the participants visited pooling scientific potentials of the the University of Jordan and

tween Jan. 6 and 9. AYF meeting reviews Jordan paper toured a number of departments. During their week-long meetings in Amman, the participants will make trips to several

archaeological and historical sites in the Kingdom and will meet with officials and hold seminars. The AYF was established in June 1988 at the request of His Royal Highness Crown Prince

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Hassan to open the door for Arab youth to discuss pan-Arab affairs.

### **Driving without a licence** a risk with high price

للمخطفة الأراسية هب خمل

The Hastiemite Keigdern Of Golden

سنعطة سترحيض

License Auditority

فوأرها فالموصية فيادة سنيارت مسالون خصيوسي

The ficence entitles to drive private cars and small trucks where the total load does not

وسيبان تقن حصوصة لالرب مولها عواد وطو

VEHICLE DRIVEYS LICENCE

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of theoretical training.
"If a person already knows

how to drive, he/she must per-

form an evaluation test at one

of the training centres," Ja'af-

reh said. But if the person fails

he/she has to undergo 40 hours

of practical driving before being allowed to try again. The procedures involve a

medical check-up and a written

test on signals, in which the

applicant should secure at least 85 points out of a possible 100.

Then a date is set for the actual

driving test, normally in about

10 days from the date of the

If he/she does not pass the

practical test, the person is

given another chance after 30

volves tests of eyesight, move-

ment of the neck and limbs and

A fee of JD 1.20 is the

charge for the medical test, JD

2.20 for the signals test, JD

5.30 for the driving test and 15

fils for stamps. Then comes the

"If the licence is issued for

a psychological test.

actual licence fee.

The medical examination in-

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — People seem to get a kick out of taking risks and trying to evade the punishments of doing so. Driving without a licence is definitely one of these chances that young Jordanians enjoy taking. It is a common remark among this category of "funloving" citizens to admit that they "get a thrill out of driving without a licence while trying to look as cool as possible when cruising past traffic policemen so as not to be spotted and stopped."

But no matter how much "fun" one derives out of it, driving without a licence is a violation of the law of the first degree and the punishment is either jail for no less than seven days and not more than three months, or a minimum fine of JD 50 and a maximum of JD 200, or the driver may be fined and jailed, according to the vehicle and drivers licensing department deputy director, Abdul Salam Al Ja'afreh.

"If a driver is sentenced to jail, the verdict can be changed into a fine only in cases where the court sees appropriate and provided that the fine amount is not less than JD 200," Ja'afreh told the Jordan Times.

One of the first things that happen to most licenceless drivers who end up in detention is a complete shaving of their head, according to several who were "unfortunate" to have been caught.

According to Ja'afreh, in order to avoid such "inconveniences" all that "a person has to do is apply for a driver's licence, which he/she can obtain through a series of proc-

First, the applicant should be 18 or above. He or she should present a certificate

one year, the fee is JD 3.45, from one of the training but if it is for 10 years, the fee is then JD 23,25," Ja'afreh schools confirming that the person took a training course in driving of at least 15 hours of explained. practical driving and 20 bours

Foreigners residing in Jor-dan who wish to obtain driving licences have to present a good conduct certificate, a residence permit and documents proving car ownership. Then they can go through the regular procedures.

Licences issued to foreigners are usually valid only up to the date of his/her residence permit, Ja'arafeh said.

If and when a person loses the driving licence, he/she has to give in a statement on where and how it was lost and then sign a declaration by which he/she is held responsible for the information given in the statement.

The person is then give a permit that allows him/her to drive during the search for the licence. "First of all we check with the highway patrols and the traffic department to make sure that they have not impounded the licence in ques-

tion," Ja'afreh said. If the licence is not found in a month's time, a new one is issued after the person pays a fee of JD 10, he said.

### House hails intifada, hits **U.S.** invasion of Panama

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Lower House of Parliament Sunday saluted the Arab people of Palestine on the eve of Christmas and New Year and expressed hope that the ongoing uprising will help the Palestinian people regain their freedom and establish an independent state on Palestinian soil under the leadership of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), the sole and legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

ra, which said the House strongly denounced the United States intervention in Panama and demanded an immediate withdrawal of American troops from Panamanian territory. It also called for moves to be made to stop the emigration of Jews from the Soviet Union and other Eastern European countries to occupied

"The emigration of Jews to Palestine is detrimental to the aspirations of the Palestinian people who are struggling to regain freedom and is bound to harm relations between the Socialist bloc and the Arab World," a statement issued by the House

Domestic front

On the domestic front, Prime said there were some people de- and badia affairs.

The Jordan News Agency, Pet- Minister Mudar Badran announced that ministries and various official and government departments will no longer request approval from or take the views of security services about the employment of any citizens to fill any positions in these departments. Petra quoted Badran as saying that in response to the deputies' request he took up the subject with the Council of Ministers at Saturday's session, which approved the request. It said that the new arrangement would take

> Badran said the government was now conducting a careful study on each case involving detained or imprisoned persons and

cause of political affiliations.

"I am not aware of any case of political detainees held by the security departments, which recently released detainees. But I will follow up the case of any name provided by the House as part of the commitment to the government's policy presented to Parliament," Badran added. At Sunday's session, which was

attended by Cabinet members, the House referred a number of draft laws and amendments of laws to concerned Parliament committees, which conducted a detailed discussion on some of them, according to Petra.

The Prime Minister himself took part in discussions and pointed out that some of the laws were enacted before the election of Parliament Nov. 8, and others were temporary laws which have already been enforced.

Also at Sunday's session, the House members elected members to the committees on public freedoms, agricultural affairs, education, health and environmental might need some time to take safety, Palestine and the occupied decisions. The prime minister territories affairs and the rural

### Masri: U.S. violated international principles

By Nermeen Murad Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The condemnation issued Sunday by the Low-er House of Parliament of the American invasion of Panama is based on the adherence by the Jordanian parliament to international norms and practices, according to deputy Taher Al Masri, who tabled the proposal at the House.

The House position was manifested in telegrams it sent to United Nations Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuéllar and U.S. President George Bush condemning the "U.S. military intervention in Panama, especially that Panama is an independent country and a member of the United Na-

The American action, according to the one page telegram, "violates international laws and the dignity of the U.N." The House called for

"the immediate withdrawal of American troops from Panama.'

Masri, who made the proposal five minutes into the seventh regular session of the house, told the Jordan Times that "the principle of (military) interventions was wrong. "We know who (Manuel

Antonio) Noriega is," Masri said. "He is a burn, but we are not defending the man, we are defending international principles," Masri said.

According to Masri, who, served as Jordan's foreign minister under two different prime ministers, "the U.S. cannot keep adopting unilateral actions. It hit Libva (in 1985) and now it has attacked Panama. This cannot continue."

Masri believes that the American intervention in South America comes as part of a larger policy to "rearrange its affairs in the countries around it now that it's influence in Europe has diminished in face of Western European

unity."
"I personally think that we changes in will now start seeing changes in South America, triggered by the U.S., to adapt to the United States' general policies,' Masri said.

The resolution tabled by Masri was adopted unanimously but not before Ahmad Oweid Al Abbadi, a deputy from Amman, interjected: "What does Jordan have to do with Panama?" But, his remark was brushed aside by other deputies.

The Jordanian condemnation of the American action in Panama was mostly in line with the positions by the international community. However, the U.S., France and Britain Saturday vetoed a United Nations Security Council resolution condemning the action.

### mittee to doost efforts to extend support for intifada

tion in Jordan in 1988 the Popular each to the families of the wound-Committee for Supporting the ed in the uprising. Palestinian Intifada collected JD 2.3 million in donations and most of the Jordan Medical Associaof the amount has reached fami-lies of martyrs in the occupied the occupied West Bank were lies of martyrs in the occupied West Bank and the Gaza Strip being assisted by JMA. There are and the committee is doubling its about 1,500 Arab doctors in the efforts to raise additional funds, according to Dr. Mamdouh all members of the JMA and Abbadi, the committee's secretary general.

The number of martyrs and the wounded in the course of the intifada which broke out in December 1987 is on the rise, and the committee is expected to need more and more funds to meet its commitments, Abbadi said in a statement to Sawt Al Shaab Arabic daily.

He said the committee had

AMMAN (J.T.) - Since its crea- family of each martyr and JD 200 The JMA is continually taking Abbadi, who is also president

> occupied West Bank and they are committed to its laws and regulations, Abbadi said.

He said that the JMA paid JD 62,000 in aid to the West Bank doctors since the start of the intifada and was helping them to continue their post-graduate studies to get specialisation in various fields.

The JMA, the oldest association in Jordan, has a total of 8,888 registered doctors and specialists, been paying JD 1,000 to the including those in the West Bank.

measures to the conditions its members in the occupied territories at all levels, Abbadi said. He said that provision had been made for pension for doctors, including those of the West Bank. In addition, the JMA is trying hard to find work for unemployed

doctors in the Kingdom and

abroad, Abbadi said. The JMA, he explained, is seeking to appoint a doctor for each school, community college, factory and other institutions. It is also offering soft loans to doctors to help them start clinics and is finding employment for Jordanian doctors and specialists in Libya and North Yemen.

Abbadi said that the unemployment problem among Jordanian doctors was being gradually



### 300 Palestinian pilgrims en route to Saudi Arabia SOUTH SHUNEH (J.T.) A ditioned buses to Saudi Arabia,

group of 340 Muslims from Palestinian territory occupied by Israel since 1948 Sunday arrived at South Shuneh in the Jordan Valley after crossing into Jordan via the King Hussein Bridge on their way to Saudi Arabia to perform the Umra pilgrimage in Mecca and Medina.

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の口門門所の場合の大学口での発生を見れている。

e from <u>b-</u> The Ministry of Awqaf and NO KINDE DE Islamic Affairs, which takes charge of pilgrimage affairs, organised a celebration here to welcome the pilgrims. Minister of Awgaf and Islamic Affairs Ali Faqir pledged to provide the pil-= 25 FT grims with all essential facilities and services. He said that arrangements would be made to transport the pilgrims in air-con-

are on their way back home. NATIONAL NEWS IN BRIEF INDUSTRIALISTS CONFERENCE: Secretary-General of the Amman-based Council of Arab Economic Unity (CAEU) Hassan Ibrahim is to participate in a conference for industrialists in the

later discuss with United Arab Emirates officials issues pertaining to the implementation of the CAEU's resolutions and the council's 1990 programmes. (Petra) AGRICULTURAL LOANS: The Irbid branch of the Agricultural Credit Corporation (ACC) gave loans totalling JD 317,000 to farmers in the Irbid governorate during 1989, according to the branch's director. Mohammad Shboul. He said that 105 local farmers benefitted from the loans and spent the money on planting

Arab Gulf states due to open in Muscat, Oman, Tuesday. He will

FOOD SUPPLIES DESTROYED: The department of supply in Qaser District has destroyed an unspecified amount of food supplies found unfit for human consumption. The department teams of officials toured stores and warehouses where they confiscated the food supplies that were destroyed. (Petra)

fruit trees, reclaiming lands and purchasing farm equipment.

KNITTING COURSE GRADUATES: A total of 35 women participants in a knitting training course organised by Yarmouk University ended their training and graduated Sunday. The participants who took the two-and-a-half month course displayed their work at an exhibition organised at the university's campus.

KARAK COOPERATIVES STUDY: The cooperatives department in Karak Governorate has prepared a detailed study on the work and activities of cooperatives in the Karak region. The study points out the various obstacles that they encounter. According to the department's director, Firyal Rabadai, the study covered the work of the cooperatives since 1952 giving particulars about the number of agricultural projects they executed and their contributions to development. (Petra)

CHARITY BAZAAR: The faculty of nursing at the University of Jordan organised a charity bazaar Sunday displaying handicrafts and knitwear. The proceeds will benefit patients at the National Mental Hospital in Fuheis. (Petra)

### WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

#### EXHIBITIONS

\* An art exhibition by artists from Jordan and other Arab countries at Al Wasiti Gallery, Plaza Hotel. \* The youths art exhibition at the Spanish Cultural Centre.

\* An exhibition entitled "The Bine Rider" at the Yarmonk University.

A plastic art exhibition by Arij Al Hamad and Ibrahim Nahalmen at the University of Jordan. \* Auenbibition on public education at the Soviet Cultural Centre. \* The Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) youths art exhibition at the Royal Cultural Centre.

A Soviet documentary film entitled "The Map of the Great Rumeland" at the Soviet Cultural Centre - 5:30 p.m.

جوران تايمز يومية عربية سياسية مستكة تصدر بالإنجليزية عن للؤمسة المسطية الأرمقية

Chairman of the Beard of Directors: MARMOUD AL KAYED

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### **Gloomy Christmas**

ONCE AGAIN it is Christmas Day and Bethlebern and the rest of the Holy Land are still deprived of the joys and hopes of the holy day. For how long can Christianity endure the Israeli sacrilegious interferences with the normal celebration and enjoyment of one of the holiest days in the Christian calendar must be upper most on the minds of all the true faithfuls. What worse deed can Israel perform to Christians everywhere than to continue its occupation and subjugation of the city of Bethlehem and the other holy places in Palestine? Yet the agony and suffering of the Holy Land continue unabated year in and year out. And when the city of Beit Sahour rebelled a few weeks ago against payment of taxes to Israel which were intended to perpetuate the Zionist state's oppression and occupation of the Holy Land, the international community including the Christian World looked with admiration but without action.

The Palestinian people, especially the Christians, among them, look for help and rescue from the rest of the Christians of the world to liberate them from Israeli occupation and suppression. And this Christmas Day offers another occasion for Palestinian prayer that after all these past agonising years the Christian community in the four corners of the world will take up the strugle of their fellow people in the Holy Land and start exerting pressure on their governments to do something honourable to end the continued Israeli occupation of Bethlehem and Jerusalem and the rest of the cities and towns of Palestine. Meanwhile mankind of all faiths shall continue to pray and hope for the day when peace and justice will reign supreme in Palestine, the land of Christ whose holy birthday the entire world celebrates today. Thus far every genuine and sincere effort made to resolve the Palestinian conflict was met with one Israeli stiff resistance or another. It is sad and unfortunate to see every peace initiative that go back to more than twenty years being thwarted or derailed by Tel Aviv's overt or covert connivance. Even the most recent plan by U.S. Secretary of State James Baker to bring the Palestinians and Israelis together is also heading for the same ritual bitter end before the very eyes of the international community. May then the occasion of Christmas this year serve as yet another fresh impetus to put new perspective and spirit into the hearts, minds and souls of the Israelis in order to begin the long journey of settling the Palestinian conflict on the basis of equity and justice.

#### **JORDAN PRESS EDITORIALS**

Al Ra'i Sunday hailed the open support for the Palestinian people and their uprising against Israeli occupation by Pope John Paul II and the South African black Archbishop Desmond Tutu. The paper said that the two leaders' statements on the eve of Christmas, manifested the world community's interest in the Palestinian cause and its open support for the Palestinian people's struggle for freedom. The paper said in reprisal for these pro-Palestinian statements, the Israelis have escalated their repression; and in Bethlehem they have turned out in force to suppress the spirit of Arab resistance. Israeli troops have closed down shops and fought battles against protesters in the Manger square in a bid to stifle the spirit of resistance in the town where Jesus Christ was born, the paper added. It said that regardless of these stepped up measures, the Arab youths in the city have maintained their struggle and continued to launch attacks on the occupation forces. Israel's acts of reprisal against the Arabs and its continued atrocities in Bethlehem, Beit Sahour and other towns can never put a stop to Arab resistance, the paper said. The Paper saluted the people of Palestine on the eve of Christmas

The downfall of Romanian President Nicolae Ceausescu tackled by a columnist in Al Ra'i Arabic paper. Mahmoud Al Rimawi noted that Ceausescu was the only leader who defied the feelings of the Arab World and the Soviet Union by refraining from severing ties with Israel following its 1967 aggression on the Arab countries. Furthermore, Ceausescu entered the Arab-Israeli conflict arena, displaying himself as a peace mediator, and eventually paved the way for the Camp David agreement between Israel and Egypt, the writer notes. He says that following the Palestinian uprising no one heard Ceausescu's voice any more, asif he was not concerned with the Arab-Israeli conflict any more or happy to see the Israelis put down the Palestinian revolt. On the domestic front. Ceausescu refused to give any freedom to his people like the other Eastern Bloc countries but was always willing to allow Romanian Jews to emigrate to Israel. The fall of the dictator, the friend of Israel, the writer concludes, should come as a bliss for the Arab countries and the Third World at

The rapprochement between Cairo and Damascus was discussed Sunday by Al Dustour Arabic daily which hailed a visit to Egypt by the Syrian vice president. The paper said that a healing of rifts between two Arab states and rapprochement between two capitals are bound to benefit the whole Arab nation, and enhance the struggle for unity. Solidarity among the Arab states is a national requirement for a solid and strong Arab stand which is badly needed in the light of the developments in the Middle East region and on the world scene, said the paper. Syria and Egypt which together fought side by side in the 1973 October war against the common enemy of the Arab World, can and must join forces again to pursue the struggle, leading to unity among Arabs and a liberation of occupied Arab lands, the paper continued. It expressed hope that another rapprochement will take place between Damascus and Baghdad so that the whole Arab nation will become united in the face of its common enemies.

# White House, Kremlin in role reversal

By Walter R. Mears The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — There's something of a role reversal and, it seems, a rule reversal as well in the way the Kremlin and the White House are dealing with each other on the U.S. intervention in Panama.

Their words and contacts point to an effort on both sides to keep the episode from intruding on the thaw in East-West relations.

The Soviet Union denounced the U.S. military move, calling it an invasion and an act of aggression, but adding to that predictable response the observation that it will not necessarily become a problem issue between Moscow and Washington.

President George Bush sent a personal message to Soviet President Mikhail S. Gorbachev on the military action he ordered early Wednesday against the Panamanian regime of Gen. Manuel Antonio Noriega.

He told a news conference Thursday that he needs to explain the operation to Gorbachev more

fully.
"It's not altogether surprising that he doesn't understand some of the special arrangements the

United States has in Panama," the president said.

Bush said he had responded to provocations that included the killing of an unarmed U.S. Marine, the brutalising of U.S. citizens and the denial of office to a freely elected leader.

Given all that, he said, his message would be: "Then, Mr. Gorbachev, please understand, this president is going to do something about it."

"So we have to explain," he Secretary of State James A. Baker III said the critical Soviet statements were not unexpected, and that the initial comments may have been issued before the first

Bush message reached Gor-

Not that it would have made much difference. U.S. intervention, whatever the cause or justification, is guaranteed to produce critical reaction from Moscow, just as the United, States has assailed Soviet moves in Afghanistan and elsewhere. Furthermore, Noriega has close ties with Caba, the Soviet western hemisphere ally, and with the

government in Nicaragua. The United States must immediately stop its armed in-

tervention in Panama," said day that changes in Eastern Vadim P. Perfiliev, spokesman for the Foreign Ministry in Moscow. A Tass commentary said the U.S. action encroaches on the progress attained elsewhere in world affairs.

But those comments were tempered by Perfiliev's observation that superpower relations have moved beyond the point at which any such episode, anywhere in the world, was deemed a matter of East-West confrontation.

The U.S. intervention comes as the Soviet Union watches barriers fall and governments turn from Communist dominance toward democracy and free market economic systems. Moscow once proclaimed a doctrine of limited sovereignty for the satellite states, insisting on its right to intervene against threats to their

Intervention to keep the satellites in line was a Moscow habit during the height of the cold war. It happened then in East Germany, in Hungary, in Czechoslovakia, in Poland.

Gorbachev turned away from that posture. Indeed, while the Romanian government was trying toput down protests with force, the Soviet president said Wednes-

Europe should come "peacefully, without violating public order and the rights of citizens." Moscow has not resisted the

freedom movements that have changed the face of Eastern Ешторе.

Sen. Sam Nunn, chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee, said it was unfortunate that the United States "was required to take these steps in Panama at a time when we are urging restraint on the part of the Soviet Union toward other nations and on the part of China toward the democratic aspirations of its own people.

Baker said the Soviet Union is supporting democracy through its forebearance, and argued the United States is doing so by doing the opposite in Panama, by in-

"Let me say that I think both the United States and the Soviet Union today are supporting democracy," Baker said at a firstday briefing on U.S. intervention in Panama.

The difference is that the Soviet Union supports democracy by staying out of countries and thus permitting democracy to proceed. In this one and very

unique instance, the United States did it by going to assist a democratically elected govern-ment against a dictator."

The Panama operation drew protests from most Latin American capitals, even from governments hostile to Noriega. He may be detested, but so is Yankee intervention.

Mexico, for example, said Panamanian problems must be resolved by the Panamanian

But they tried, and Noriega wouldn't let it happen, which is the Baker argument.

Nonlega reneged on this year's elections because he was losing, and installed his proxies to govern. The Organisatison 'f American States (OAS) tried to talk him into yielding power to an elected government. Five times its emissaries went to Panama City on that futile mission.

Latin American states voted at the OAS Friday for a resolution assailing "the military in-tervention in Panama," a measure that gained something in the translation.

The English language version expressed regret, the Spanish translation deploted the opera-

The OAS urged an immediate end to the fighting and said American troops should be withdrawn. The vote was 20 to 1.

Only the U.S. delegate voted no. The Latin protests inevitable. And despite the easing of East-West tensions, Soviet officials and commentators weren't about to let Washington off the book

easily. Georgi Arbatov, a Soviet expert on U.S. affairs, called the operation a return to gunboat diplomacy and said it could strengthen hardliners opposed to arms reductions.

He also said in an ABC-TV interview that Noriega is a prob-lem the United States created for itself, by training him and once having him on the CIA payroll.

For all of that, there remains the possibility that the Panama precedent could be argued in connection with future Soviet intervention, if it comes to that, in a place like Lithuania. That Baltic state has been part of the Soviet Union since 1940. An independence movement there is strong and gaining despite Kremlin warnings that it will come grief and great trouble.

THAT I

UNDERSTAND

# U.S bungles political aspect of Panama invasion

By Alan Elsner Reuter

WASHINGTON — The United States may have bungled the political management of its invasion of Panama and now faces the danger of a backlash at home and

abroad, political analysts said. "The Bush administration has not done a good job in making its case. It keeps shifting the emphasis and this will have dwindling returns even in the United States," said law professor and Latin America expert Robert Goldman who was initially highly supportive of the intervention.

According to analysts, the U.S.-installed government of Guillermo Endara would be welladvised to commit itself to elections within a year to gain the international legitimacy it has so

himself a clean mandate rather than the tainted mandate he now has," said Louis Goodman, dean of the School of International Service at the American Uni-

The analysts say the Bush administration put too much emphaasis on capturing Panamanian strongman Manuel Antonio Noriega, making the operation seem like a failure as long as he remained at large.

It also failed to take into

account the civil disorder that ensued after the invasion, was slow to try to re-establish law and order showing an apparent unconcern for Panamanian property and mismanaged public relations aspects of the operation.

For instance, President George Bush gave a news conference on national television at the same time as the first bodies of U.S. servicemen killed in the invasion were arriving home.

The networks split their television screens, showing Bush exchanging jokes with the White House press corps on one side and coffins draped in flags being unloaded from planes on the

"If enough U.S. troops come back from Panama in body bags, what rally-round-the-flag Americans now consider a justified operation might soon backhemisphere," said New York Times columnist Tom Wicker.

He said sentiment against the intervention would sharpen if U.S. troops found themselves having to combat Noriega-led guerrilla operations. In addition, the Bush adminis-

tration appeared to have miscalculated the strength of world condemnation. Although Secretary of State James Baker said several governments had expressed private support for the inva-



sion, only British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher has endorsed

Latin American public outrage was anticipated but usually friendly neutral nations like Finland and Sweden and even allies like France have joined the chorns of disapproval and not one government has recognised En-

The fact that Endara was sworn in at a U.S. military base confirmed him as a "Yankee" stooge

in the eyes of many in Latin America and he was slow to make his presence felt in Panama. "It looked like the Endara peo-

ple were skulking into the country. This was not well-judged politically," said Goldman. Analysts said reaction may have been more negative because of a perception that the days when superpowers sent troops into neighbouring countries were

Moscow grabbed the opportun-

ity to draw the contrast between its own behaviour in Eastern Europe and the U.S. invasion. Baker's statement that Moscow was supporting democracy by staying out of other countries while the United States did it by going in struck a false note,

analysts said.

In Congress, backing for the operation was wide but not deep with several legislators issuing carefully worded but qualified expressions of support.

Les Aspin, chairman of the House of Representatives Armed Services Committee, said the operation "could go sour political-ly" for Bush if Noriega remained at large, if a "nasty" hostage situation developed, or if there was a steady loss of U.S. lives.

House Speaker Thomas Folev said the operation raised serious questions. "Do you send 24,000 troops to arrest somebody?" he

#### hopes for unity with international jitters Kohl tries to balance

By Terrence Petty Associated press

BONN — Chancellor Helmut Kohl is riding a new crest of popularity with his vision of German unity, but the historic happenings in Germany have put him on one of the trickiest tightropes ever walked by a West German

Kohl faces the daunting task of trying to balance euphoria over German unity with international fears about Germany's future

Polls say Kohl's popularity has risen in West Germany because of his visions of German unity.

But his unification rhetoric has set off alarms from Washington to Moscow about Europe's stability, and also resulted in demands that he clarify Bonn's position on former German lands east of the Oder and Neisse rivers that now

are part of Poland. "He's a clever domestic politician but not a foreign policy statesman. However, I wouldn't like to be in his shoes," said Heinrich Vogel, director of the respected Institute for Eastern and International Studies in Col-

Kohl has dazzled East Germans and West Germans by promising that a single Germany

will eventually come about. Federal elections in West Germany are a year away, and the latest opinion polls show Kohl's rightist parties four points ahead of the left-leaning Social Democratic Party after months of running neck-and-neck.

election chances had seemed dimmer because of a series of domestic problems attributed by many voters to his weak leadership. Now, even opposition leaders have been congratulating Kohl for his efforts to bring the two Germanys closer together.

Earlier this year, Kohl's re-

The chancellor, however, finds himself in the touchy position of trying to help East Germany while at the same time fending off some East Germans who warn against a seliout of national interests to West Germany.

A commentator in the Com-

munist Party newspaper Neues Deutschland charged Thursday that some West Germans are telling Kohl: "Better to take in the German Democratic Republic (East Germany) as the 12th federal state today than tomorrow.'

West Germany has 11 states. East German opinion is widely split over unification. Demonstrators at first were focusing on demands for democratic and economic reforms, but a growing number have been showing up with giant placards reading "one German fatherland."

Shouts of "Helmut, we need you" erupted from a huge weicoming crowd of East Germans during Kohl's visit to Dresden recently.

East German leaders welcome desperately needed financial help from Kohl, but reject his ideas on German unity.

Kohl runs serious risks at home

and abroad of looking like he's interfering too much in East German affaris. West German President Richard Von Weizsaecker, who is widely respected, warned West

German political parties on Dec. 14: "Don't exploit the GDR for purposes here, it is not our part to Since his initial statements drew criticism, Kohl has changed the tone of his German unity

addresses, stressing the need to

keep East Germany from erupt-

ing into chaos and protect other

nations' security interests. "Stability in Germany is important for all of Europe. From this arises a special responsibility for both German states," Kohl told

the Upper House of West Germany's parliament.

Political experts say Kohl has no choice but to strive to allay fears about European stability. "He has to back off. Once you've made all those moves in a China shop, you have to retreat,'

said Vogel, the political scientist in Cologne. But letting up too much on the unification issue could get Kohl into trouble with some conserva-

tive West Germans. "Kohl apparently has pleased some people with his 10-point unity plan. But if he has to put the breaks on it for whatever reason, there would be disappointment," said Klaus Becher, a political scientist at the German Institute for Foreign Policy in Bonn.

There also is concern that public frustration could lead to unrest in East Germany if unification comes too slowly.

But political experts say Kohl runs the risk of alienating liberal West Germans if he puts too much emphasis on German unity and too little on other domestic concerns such as the environment and unemployment.

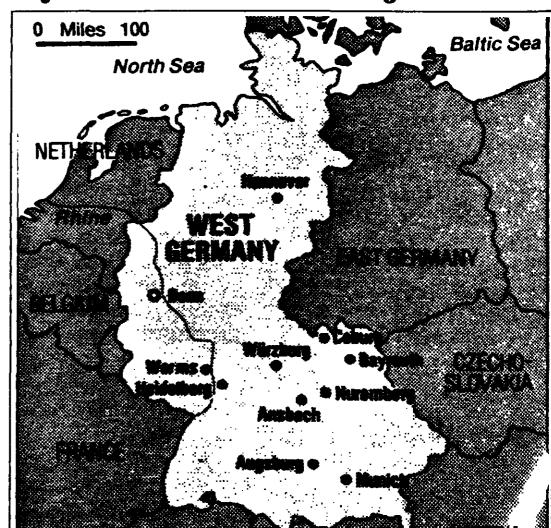
East Germany's deep economic and social problems and the revival of the unification dream have left politics in disarray in West Germany.
With Kohl getting much of the

credit as the two German nations draw ever closer, a number of commentators are portraying the opposition Social Democrats as a party without a platform.

The Social Democrats have drawn up their own ideas of German unity, foreseeing a loose confederation between the two German states rather than formal

done enough to soothe international worries that Germany could unite and become too

They charge that Kohl hasn't



"I understand the concern of other Europeans, who twice in this century were forced to undergo terrible experiences because of Germany," West Berlin Mayor Walter Momper, a Social Demo-"Poland's western border is un-changeable," Momper said. crat, told parliament's Upper

The Social Democrats are especially zeroing in on European concerns about the Bonn govern- of the east bloc country.

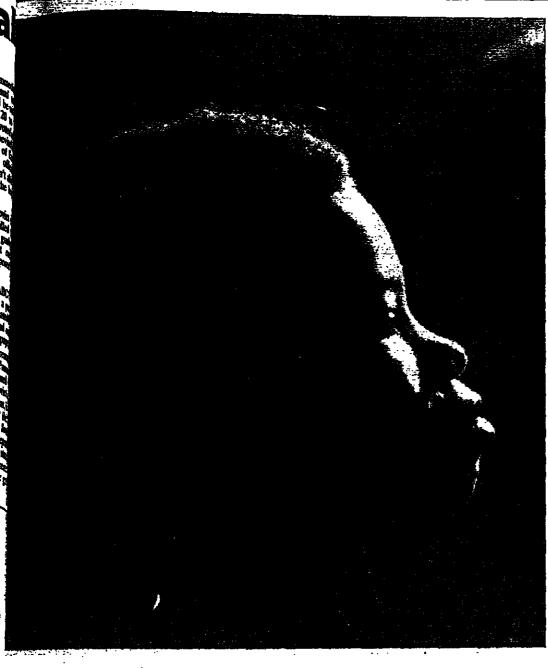
ment's stand on former German territory incorporated into Poland after World War II.

Some arch-conservatives in West Germany have questioned the legality of Poland's ownership of the former German territory, which comprises about one-third

The European Parliament 10cently demanded that Bonn state unequivocally it has no designs on the land.

Kohl has assured Poland that West Germany has no claim on the lands, but some of his politic, al allies maintain that the lack of treaty ending World War. Il technically leaves open any questions about borders.





### Could try harder ing simple classrooms. Educated

The proportion of the developing world's children who are enrolled in primary school is beginning to fall again after 30 years of educational expansion, says thisyear's State of the World's Children report from UNICEF. In half of the developing nations, the number of 6 to 11 year olds in school is now declining and in two countries out of three educational expenditure per pupil is falling.

"Somehow the momentum of "enlarged aid programmes education must be restored," says should be designed to support UNICEF's Executive Director, James Grant. "Not to acquire basic literacy and numeracy is a serious disability for any child. And the failure of society to invest in conce z, saidet some degree, all other developsour pie ment efforts."

negative Ways and means of reversing usty" this trend will be the most urgent d, or it item on the agenda of the first of ULE World Conference on Education for All which will meet in March Thomas 1990 in Thailand. "What is so raised as preoccupying," says the Director-u.send it General of UNESCO, a co-spon-. meboil sor of the conference, "is that the greatest damage seems to have been done at the very foundation of the educational pyramid, in primary education and in basic hiteracy for adults and out-ofschool youth."

**Drop-outs** 

Education is being squeezed. says the report, by the rise in debt repayments and military spending which now account for half of all government expenditures in the developing world.

At the same time, education is

being eroded from within by the high drop-out rates. Of the 100 illion children who wil begin their school careers in the developing world in 1990, for examde, over 40 million will drop out before completing primary education. "Most of those children will be unable to fully participate in, or benefit from the great changes which will surely surround their lives as the 21st

century begins," says the report. In the long-term, no one seriously doubts the priority of investing in schools. It is well established, for example, that education is strongly associated with lower child death rates, lower birth rates, better health and nutrition, and higher incomes. In addition, economic returns from education are higher than from most other kinds of investment. Four years of primary education. for example, can increase farm productivity by 10 per cent or

"With such high returns of all kinds available," says Grant, education for all is an investment which no country can afford not to make.

But faced with so many short-term problems and pressures. governments are finding it difficult to find the resources. Urging action to reduce the crushing burdens of debt servicing and defence spending, UNICEF suggests that progress towards education for all could be restated in the 1990s by a combination of increased aid and a new priority for primary education. In the 1990s," says Grant,

successful in giving three years of basic education to 8 to 10-year olds, over half of them girls, and graduating 95% of its pupils into the fourth grade of the government education system. Going beyond formal education, the UNICEF report suggests a new effort to mass-communicate today's knowledge abthose measures which may offer out such things as health, child little immediate advantage but care, food production, and enwhich are essential to the imvironmental improvement. "In provement of human lives and

engines for future growth — a healthy, well-nourished and welleducated people."

Primary priority

human capacities. Aid should be

invest in the most reliable of all

The most obvious improvement in efficiency available to most nations would be a tilt in the balance of educational spending

in favour of primary schools. In many countries, a dollar invested in primary education returns twice as much as a dollar invested in higher education. Yet governments commonly devote the majority of educational resources to higher education. Even a small percentage decrease in unit costs of secondary and higher education," argues the World Bank, "could release additional funds for providing basic education to more people.

Increasing the efficiency of existing schools is also a possible "resource" for the 1990s. In many schools, operating costs have been so reduced that teachers' salaries consume 95% of the budget, leaving little or nothing for such essentials as books, writing materials or black-

If the quality of education falls because operating costs are cut, parents may decide that the costs of education outweigh the benefits. "Even when primary education itself is free," says the report, "the cost of sending a child to school, in clothes, equipment, bus fares, 'donations', contributions to school fund raising efforts, and the loss of a child's work in fields or homes, can be a large slice of a poor family's

Many parents are deciding that these sacrifices are not worthwhile. And usually it is female children who are withdrawn from school first. "More than two thirds of those children who never go to school, or who drop-out at too early a stage, are female," says UNICEF.

Hope in Bangladesh

The report cites one experiment which may offer a way of reducing costs and expanding primary enrolment. The 2,500 schools so far opened by the Bangladesh Rural Advancement Committee (BRAC) are demonstrating that basic education, including literacy and numeracy, can be provided for as little as \$15 per pupil per year. The BRAC method involves parents in build-

### Side-walk Santas

By John Wright The Associated Press

MEXICO CITY — Santa Claus is embroiled in a controversy in Mexico, where critics of the jolly old gift-bearer man say he is threatening the nation's own Christmas traditions by displacing the Child Jesus and upstaging the feast of the epiphany.

"It is not new that we are witnessing an invasion of foreign products and ideas. But it is serious that we are learning to forget Mexico Christmas, which belongs to us," the government's national cultural council says in a pamphlet about Christmas tradi-

The biggest Mexican Christmas celebration is three kings day or the feast of the epiphany Jan. 6. some people exchange presents Dec. 25, but the gifts were given in celebration of the Christ Child.

Purists see santa as a cultural interloper much like Halloween - which is threatening Mexico's traditional all saints day, known as day of the dead.

They fear Mexico's traditional roots are being dug up by a tide of imported holiday celebrations. The traditional feasts date back to 16th century Spanish colonial times, and some, like the day of the dead, are blended with Indian Aztec traditions.

One promoter of the man from the north pole is Manuel Herrera, a photographer who runs a sidewalk stand selling Christmas presents on the Alameda, a park in downtown Mexico City. Herrera denied that Mexico is

losing its heritage. "Now we have Santa Claus. After Christmas. we have the kings. They have both, but the children really love Santa Claus," a smiling Herrera said. On the Alameda, two dozen,

professional Santas in white cotton beards and thick red robes line up on the sidewalks, ringing bells, whistling, playing music or letting out a cheerful "Feliz Navidad," or "Christmas Greeting." or "ho-ho-ho" to attract their little customers.

The children sit on santa's lap to have their picture taken - at a cost of about \$4 a day's minimum wage in the capital. Santa splits the money with the photo-

Some parents get into the pic ture too — literally. For a little more money, the whole family gets its picture taken in a wooden sleigh, complete with horned Reindeer and Santa at the reins. One man said that after Christ-

mas the Santas dress up again as anv trade. The Santa Claus controversy notwithstanding, Mexico still has a rich variety of distinctive Christmas observances.

### The 1980's a decade marked by designers, greed and Rambo

By Arthur Spiegelman

NEW YORK - It was a decade when fear of herpes gave way to the towering tragedy of aids, a decade when caffeine. cholesterol, red meat and smoking became public enemies while cocaine became the drug of choice for a generation of new

It was a decade in which the rich became celebrated just for being rich and their faces seemed everywhere along with their Guccis, Rolls-Royces and other brand name baubles while thousands of people slept in the streets.

Above all, the experts say, the lifestyle of the 1980s seemed to have been about greed and conspicuous consumptin, a decade personified in the United States by yuppies with heroes like Ivan Boesky, Michael Milken, Donald Trump, Leona Helmsley and Malcolm Forbes (who spent \$2 million on his 70th birthday party).

It was a decade where the poor seemed to become poorer as the Rolling Stones grossed \$90 million by making yet another farewell tour and baseball players won salaries of up to \$3 million a summer for playing a child's

It was also a time when many heroes fell off their pedestals from Canadian sprinter Ben Johnson, stripped of his Olympic gold medal and world record for using steroids, to Pete Rose, who was on his way to immortality with the most hits in baseball history until his gambling addiction got him banned from the sport for life.

Van Gogh and Rambo From the playing field to the

brokerage house, it was clearly a time of breaking the rules - and getting caught. The dollar seemed to lose meaning and works of art became

the new currency of the very rich. A Van Gogh painting the artist could not sell in his lifetime sold for \$53.9 million, the world record price at auction. It the was the decade of Ram-

bo, a fascist freedom fighter, and Ronald Reagan, whose eight years in the White House seemed to give greed the presidential seal of approval.

It was also a time in which half of American marriages ended in divorce and a quarter of American children lived either in poverty or

in one-parent homes. The decade began with a preoccupation about good sex and ended with an obsession about safe sex.

Paul Slansky, author of "The Clothes Have No Emperor: A Chronicle of the 1980s," a book that detailed the foibles of the decade, said his favourite quote of the 1980s came from Ivan Boesky: "Greed is Healthy.'

But Boesky, now bearded and looking more like a lost prophet than a Wall Street wizard, was not feeling that great as the de-cade ended and he remained in a federal prison after agreeing to pay \$100 million in fines and repayments for illegal insider stock trading.

Boesky's vintage wines. however, were kept safe and sound for him in the wine cellar of New York's posh "21" club. On Dec. 13, Helmsley, the 69-year-old "Hotel Queen" broke down sobbing as a judge

and fined her \$7.1 million for plotting to evade taxes on everything from bras and girdles to a million-dollar marble dance floor

and a \$130,(14)0 stereo system. "What I sticed mostly in America and England in the 1980s was the increase in unabashed consumption, an overconsumption of goods and services." said the novelist Alison

"People don't think anything of spending immense amounts of money for luxuries. Prestige seems to come from spending more money than necessary, Lurie added.

"It was a designer decade, an attempt to make people feel that money and objects are what counts in this world. What we are depended we own and buy," she

Fuelling this triumph of materialism in the United States and elsewhere was the media's, especially television's, ability to promote never-ending images of wealth and things to buy. "It was as if television took over people's brains and laundered them," said ordered her to jail for four years Lurie.



Swiss summer fashions for 1990:

It's striking hood makes this blouse with the graphic embroidered trimming from Bischoff Textile very elegant This Spanish night's blouse has a checky cowl collar in St. Gall guipure embroidery from NAEF Nueesch

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### **Israel** privatisation programme dealt a major setback

TEL AVIV (R) — The Israeli parliament dealt a severe blow to the government's privatisation programme recently when the key finance committee voted against the sale of a majority stake in Israel Chemicals Ltd (ICL).

Finance Minister Shimon Peres had slated ICL, Israel's most profitable public enterprise, as the first major firm to be sold in a drive to attract foreign investsunt and make industry more competitive internationally.

The setback follows repeated delays in Peres' efforts to sell of commercial banks, in which the government holds a majority of

shares but not of voting rights. "Today no foreign investor will take us seriously any more," a finance ministry official commented last week when the vote

The Knesset Finance Committee voted 22-4 to recommend the government retain control of ICL because of its hold over Israel's only natural resources and its centrality to the economy, espe-cially in the underdeveloped Naqib desert region.

Instead it suggested selling a minority of shares on the Tel Aviv stock exchange and to ICL

The vote cast doubt on government plans to raise up to \$5 billion over five years by selling more than 20 firms.

Finance ministry officials said the government had hoped to raise \$400 million by selling just over 50 per cent of ICL to foreign investors by April 1990.

Ten serious bidders had been identified, including British publisher Robert Maxwell, whose representatives were barred by angry workers from inspecting ICL's Dead Sea Works phosphate plant last week.

Jewish diaspora backers of Israel, in an economic think-tank called operation "Independence" warned Peres in a letter this week that failure to proceed with the sale of ICL could jeopardise the

entire privatisation programme... Economic experts said the programme was important if Israel was to compete in the European Community's post-1992 single market.

ICL earned a net profit of \$38.7 million in the first half of 1989, compared with \$23 million in the same period last year, the company reported in October.

lion, of which more than \$300 million were exports. Also slated for privatisation subsidiary of military industrial giant Israel Aircraft Industries. Koor needs new management

are Israel's oil refineries, the El

Al Airline and Elta Electronics, a

The finance committee demanded that control of the struggling Koor conglomerate be wrested from the Histadrut Labour Fed-

request from Koor Industries Ltd for government aid, but committee members reported wide accord on the need for new management at Israel's largest industrial concern.

The members are reaching the conclusion Koor must be rescued from the present owner and another outside operator must be: out in charge with the professional skill and the possibility to weight only business considera-tions," said committee member Ariel Weinstein.

Koor employs about 25,000 people, more than 10 per cent Israel's industrial workforce. "The government should invest

\$200 million in Koor, hand the management to a professional team and later sell the concern to the public," said committee member Haim Ramon.

The committee agreed to meet Monday to continue discussing Koor, which has more than a billion dollars in debts.

Board Chairman Arnon Gafny said in a television interview that Koor's creditors agreed it was better to attempt a recovery than to liquidate the firm.

The cost of recovery in the direction we are headed is less than the cost of breaking up (Koor) or bankruptcy," Gainy

The firm, saying it could not cover its debts, asked the finance ministry last Sunday for a government guarantee in order to avoid default on its U.S. bonds. The Histadrut said Monday it

would be ready to yield part ownership in return for funds. The government dropped an earher offer to give Koor \$50 million in return for equity because of dissatisfaction with Koor's recovery aplan.

Koor presented the five-year recovery plan last month, including a request to write off \$125 million in debts.

But Israeli banks, owed more than \$800 million, rejected the would accept a large debt writeoff only in return for a tougher

### **India's growth rate to** slow to four per cent

NEW DELHI (R) — India's economic growth, strapped by trade and fiscal deficits and ballooning foreign debts, will slow to four per cent this year, a government white paper on the economy said.

A newly-established Council of Economic Advisers called for crucial modifications in the economic policy of the past five years, saying it was fuelling inflation and pressuring India's balance of payments.

The new National Front government of Vishwanath Singh has already pledged to devote half of all government resources to the agricultural sector and to write off loans of \$500 or less to poor

farmers and rural workers.

The government should "concentrate on a broad-based growth pattern with emphasis on removing disparities between sections of the population and regions rather than aim at a higher rate of growth in aggregate output," the economic advisers said.

India's gross domestic product growth will likely be four per cent at the end of the fiscal year in March against a robust nine per cent the previous year, said the paper released at the weekend.

It said India's foreign debt as of March 1989 was \$51.2 billion and will rise even higher at the end of this financial year.

The World Bank, in its recently-released world debt tables, adds in India's short-term loans and puts the debt figure at \$7 billion, the fourth highest in the developing world after Argen-

The paper said the debt was

not a serious concern. "The real problem is that the burden of debt service reduces greatly the room for manocuvre on the development front as well as in the choice of development

Recurring deficits and escalating debt repayments were severely straining the country's balance of payments. The paper recommended controlling government subsidies and slashing defence spending.

The reduction in tensions in the world as a whole and improved relations with our neighbours can provide the basis for containing defence expenditure,"

the advisers said. New Delhi's defence budget doubled in real terms during the 1980s. Since 1986 it has ranked as the world's largest arms importer, buying \$5.2 billion worth in 1987 alone, foreign defence analysts

The fiscal deficit, estimated at \$4.5 billion in this year's budget, will likely turn out much higher,

the paper said.
India has been running annual trade deficits of more than \$5 billion over the past three years, according to official figures.

Large capital-intensive projects using a lot of imported machinery should be scrapped or delayed, the paper said.

The emphasis shoud be on diversified agricultural growth and rural employment to stimulate demand for cheaper, simpler, domestic manufactured goods which would save foreign ex-

#### AMMAN EXCHANGE RATES

Sunday, December 24, 1989

644.0 650.0 1056.6 380.9

Japanese yen (for 100) Dutch guilder

110.3 111.4 452.6 457.1 334.0 337.3 102.4 103.4 50.4 50.9 177.3 179.1

Jordan Times Tel: 667171-6

### Japan approves 1990 draft budget

government Sunday approved a draft budget that does not rely on deficit-financing bonds.

The finance ministry's 66.273-trillion-yen (\$466.7 billion) spending plan for fiscal 1990, which begins next March, was accepted by the cabinet in a special meeting.

The budget represents a 9.7 per cent rise over current fiscal year spending and calls for a 5.5 per cent increase in defence outlay and 5.9 per cent rise in official development assistance.

Because of economic expansion, the defence budget will dip below one per cent of Japan's gross national product (GNP) for the first time in years, scaling at 0.991 per cent of the GNP.

In the mid-1970s Japan adopted a policy of keeping de-fence spending to within one per cent of the GNP, but since 1986 it has hovered just above that figure. Defence spending in the coming fiscal year will be 4.135 trillion yen (\$29.1 billion).

Further negotiations will finetune specific allocations for the final version of the budget, approval of which is expected next Friday, a senior Finance Ministry official said.

The cabinet also approved a supplementary budget for the current fiscal year, at 5.897 trillion yen (\$41.5 billion) the largest

stop-gap budget ever.

The greatest thrust of this year's budget is the desire of the government to end its dependence on deficit-financing bonds," the ministry official, who would not be quoted by name, told reporters. "Since they were first introduced in 1975, we have made earnest efforts to end this dependency. We were finally able to rid ourselves of this unhealthy

The government issued 1.33 trillion yen (\$9.3 billion) worth of deficit-financing bonds last year to cover the budget's red ink. That amount will be made up in part by an infusion in fiscal 1990 of 1.3 trillion yen ((\$9.15 billion) from government sales last year of its shares in Nippon Telegraph and Telephone Corp., as well as increased tax revenues, the offi-

cial said. Non-deficit-financing government bonds to be issued next year total 5.63 trillion yen (\$39.6 billion), itself a drop of 20.8 per cent

draft budget.
Official development assistance (ODA) to developing countries will rise 5.9 per cent to about 800 billion yen (\$5.6 billion). Japan has pledged to provide more than \$50 billion in ODA over a five-year period beginning

The government will also boost spending on social security programmes 6.2 per cent over the current fiscal year to 11.573 trillion yen (\$81.5 billion), a third of all general expenditures in the fiscal 1990 budget.

"It remains imperative that fis-

TOKYO (AP) — For the first cal consolidation be forcefully time in 15 years, the Japanese promoted and fiscal flexibility restored as soon as possible if fiscal policy is to be able to respond flexibility to the rapid aging of the population, Japan's greater responsibilities in the international community, and

other social and economic

changes," the Finance Ministry

said in a statement Sunday. Spending on public works will rise 0.3 per cent to 6.215 trillion yen (\$43.8 billion) next fiscal year. Although the United States government has urged Japan to increase such publicly funded projects to help ease Tokyo's trade surplus with Washington, the marginal increase "is sufficient," the Finance Ministry offi-

"It is not our understanding that the U.S. position is that something need be done in a single year's budget," the official said. "(Even) without the U.S. urging we are fully aware of the need, which is reflected in the allocations for next year."

The budgetary increases reflect growing tax revenues flowing from the country's booming economy that has just entered into its fourth year of continuous expan-

The draft budget was compiled on the basis of government estimates thast the economy will grow an inflation-adjusted four per cent next year, a brisk pace despite a slowdown from the estimated 4.6 per cent growth in fiscal 1989. At the outset of the current fiscal year, the govern-ment projected growth of four per cent, but revised the estimate upward in light of the unexpected strength of domestic demand.

An unusual addition to the fiscal 1990 budget was 5.6 billion yen (\$39 million) for the formal enthronement ceremonies of Emperor Akihito, and 136 million yen (\$958,000) for the wedding of Akihito's second son. Prince Ava.

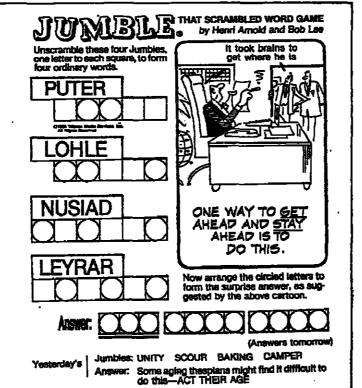
The government will introduce the final budget to Parliament early next year, where it generally passes before a new fiscal year sets in. Passage of the fiscal 1989 budget was delayed, however, by deliberations over a three-percent sales tax that was eventually rammed through Parliament by the ruling Liberal Democratic

Finance Ministry officials could controversial sales tax, introduced in April, will bring in this fiscal year, but noted that tax revenues account for 87.5 per cent of all revenue anticipated in the proposed budget, compared with 55.7 per cent in fiscal 1979.

Non-tax revenues will also register a sharp gain of 34.9 per cent. The budget will not receive a fresh infusion of funds from the government's sale of shares of Nippon Telegraph and Telephone, as there was no offering protectionism will make Africa a this year, but gains from previous major loser in world trade," says sales of NTT shares will help cover next year's spending.



"The best way to keep love alive is to give it mouth-to-mouth resuscitation!"



# RJ strives to maintain pace in airline bullfight over fares

By Mariam M. Shahin Jordan Times Staff Writer

AMMAN — As the airline business around the globe becomes increasingly competitive and as deregulation policies are spreading from North America to Western Europe and possibly beyond, national airline carriers such as Jordan's Royal Jordanian (RJ) are having to take a second look at some of their promotion and incentive policies.

Responding to a growing en-croachment on its markets, Royal Jordanian has taken steps to increase commercial and travel incentives for their customers.

Moves to increase incentives was seen by observers as realistic and necessary since "other airline companies have slashed prices and offered travel perks in order to win a greater share of the market in the Middle East. It is only appropriate that RJ joins in the bullfight to increase its share in the market," said one

Observers saw the decision to increase the incentives resulting from moves made by other, mostly European airlines, to lure more customers with promises of lower prices. "Some airlines," noted one observer in the airline business, "were giving more 'convenient' deals to the travel agents and RJ was being undercut even

in its home market."

boundaries of international commercial aviation agreements and respect the International Air Transport Association (IATA)

RI has adopted certain customer incentives which other airline carriers are also using to make travel packages more attractive to passengers. The introduction of "the frequent flyer package" gives certain benefits to the traveller who accumulates a specified number of miles within a given time period. These include upgrading tickets, occasional free tickets and VIP lounge privileges.

In an attempt to increase tourism in the Kingdom, RJ has also introduced a "free stop-over in Jordan" package, which allows passengers to stay in the country at a minimal cost or even free of charge for one or two nights depending on the agreement.

Army personnel, civil servants, diplomats, journalists, students and the handicapped are among the professional and social groups which are given discounts on RI flights. This is a reciprocation of what many international airlines offer to similar clients as well, according to RJ officials.

#### Flexible policies

A new "flexible" commercial policy is expected to be formulated in the near future to deal with "airfare tactics" that seem to be a common practice in the age of supersonic jets. Age of equipment, the quality of the airlines ground and air service, convenience of arrival and departure times, advertising, reservation services and prices are all factors that influence the clients' decision when chosing a flight and airline, according to one senior RJ offi-

After two announced price rises by RJ earlier this year 28 per cent increase last January and a 12 per cent increase in April — other airline companies apparently began allowing for greater profit margins for the travel agents by increasing the discounts, thus undermining RJ flights to destinations in Europe. and the United States.

One RI official conceded that undercutting prices had long been a "tactic" in the free market economy world and thus "we can't actually say it was not fair play", as long as it stays within international rules and regulations on tariffs."

As more and more countries in the world are turning to a free market economy, prices competi-tion among airlines is increasing constantly. "Many a national air-liner would go straight under if it did not have the promotion and protection of the public sector' said the representative of one airline stationed here.

Deregulation of prices has long been allowed for in the United

States and as a result many small airlines have simply disappeared. The world of the airlines has: become a race in the race of the survivors of the fittest," said one easoned observer. That is why RI is negotiating with other Arab airlines to pool their resources in a bid to face stiffer competition

from large airlines.
One of the many economic stipulations in the Treaty of Rome, the 1957 document which set the ground rules for the economic union of Western Europe, was that Europe, once united in 1992, would enjoy a market where free competition would reign. Many European airlines are said to be preparing them selves for the onslaught of price bargains and other lucrative

"What is particularly interesting is that the airlines are really vying with each other to offer not only the best financial package to the customers through travel agents but also the best quality in terms of comfort, food and entertainment. So the winner in all this is really the customers. They have all these airlines competing with each other to give the customer the flight of their lives," said an apparently pleased traveller. The trouble remains that with greater deregulation and hercer competition, maintenance, is always secrificed. So what appears to be good for a customer's pockets, may not be good for their lives!

Investors must weigh the Mid-

"The jobs that can come here

in labour intensive industries are

not going to go to Eastern.

Europe. Wages are still lower

here," a Cairo-based Western di-

"Most countries are going to bold off investing in Eastern

Europe until they are sure (the

political changes there) will last,"

an economist said. "In the Mid-

dle East people are more confi-

dent of investing because in the

some EC cash might be diverted

source of funds, was more likely

to keep ties at current levels.

lions of dollars of aid into the

Middle East, Israel and Egypt,

the world's leading recipients of

U.S. aid, together receive more than \$5 billion annually in econo-

The region's political volatility.

The United States pours bil-

Analysts added that while

end there is always oil."

plomat said.

force of Eastern Europe.

### Treaty for African market takes shape

By Rory Channing Reuter

ADDIS ABABA — Aware that competing trade and economic blocs are taking shape in other regions, Africa hopes to craft a blueprint by mid-1990 for its own common market.

"We hope we will finish the draft treaty by July next year," Ahmad Haggag, assistant secretary general of the 50-member Organisation of African Unity (OAU), said in an interview.

This would enable it to be submitted for consideration by African leaders at the annual OAU summit next July, he

A permanent steering committee has finished what Haggag tot say how much revenue the called a "first reading" of the draft, which is being circulated to OAU member states for com-Advocates of an African com-

mon market say it will become

increasingly necessary to develop collective clout in order to protect the continent's interests in trade and other dealings with existing and emerging economic group-'Regionalism (abroad) and the inevitable concomittant development of the intensification of

Adebayo Adedeji, the executive secretary of the U.N. Economic Commission for Africa. As examples of the challenges that lie ahead, Adedeji lists the single, barrier-free market to be created by the 12-nation European Community after 1992, the existing U.S.-Canada free trade area and a proposed giant, Asia-

Pacific rim grouping linking that

DON'T THINK

YOU'RE THE REAL

region with North America.

The EC and the Soviet Union on December 18 signed an economic pact hailed as opening the way to closer pan-European integration as the East-West divide

"The 1990s will turn out to be an era of regional blocs," Adedeii said.

The OAU has sketched a timetable which sees an African common market being formed over 10 years from 1998 as a prelude to developing an African economic community over the next 20 years. The timetable allows two years for ratification of the treaty after its expected submission for signature in 1991.

Meanwhile, Haggag and Adedeji say, it is vital for Africa's several sub-regional economic alliances to accelerate efforts to achieve integration, and smooth the way for pan-African unity. Such alliances date back to the formation of the 16-nation econo-

mic community of West African states, in 1975. Yet targets have slipped and intra-African trade still accounts for only four per cent of the continent's total trade. "How regionalism can work better in Africa is the challenge for all of us in the 1990s," said

Adedeji. The OAU, under Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak as current chairman, is twinning its drive for African integration with determined efforts to breathe fresh life into a 12-year-old campaign for Afro-Arab cooperation.

Finance ministers from both sides met in Washington in September, followed by a meeting of foreign ministers in New York last November, to discuss statutes for a new institution to promote and guarantee Afro-Arab investiments.

IF YOU'RE THE

REAL SANTA

agreement which will be reviewed by a 24-member standing com- dle East's cheaper workforce mission of experts in Kuwait next against the better-trained work-March, ahead of another meeting of finance ministers.

'We hope that Arab and African investors will be persuaded there are a lot of opportunities for profitable investiments," Haggag said. "There is scope for a lot of mutual benefit."

Looking East not South?

The Africans and the Arabs fear that the West's fascination with reformist Eastern Europe will divert aid and investment at their expense.

"We are disappointed and a little surprised by this infatua- to the East bloc, the United tion," Tunisian Prime Minister States, the Middle East's biggest Hamed Karoni said in a recent radio interview. "Our area will need to work

very hard to keep a good portion of what we used to have," Egyptian syndicated columnist Ahmad Beha' Eddin told Reuters. "I think a big part of what was supposed to come here is going to mic and military assistance. go to Eastern Europe."

Political and economic analysts are divided on how far the rush of Western interest in the liberalising East bloc will affect the Middle East.

A European Community official in Cairo said: "Our choice is not East or South. It is East and South."

Middle East concern is focused on funds from EC countries, particularly private investment. "Despite (EC) assurances-there are well-founded and

legitimate worries on the part of

Third World Mediterranean

countries," the left-wing Moroc-

its oil, and its strategic importance in the Mediterranean are good reasons for the United States to maintain its financial support. But some American businessmen said they might in time

The analysts said Japan still viewed the Middle East, particularly rich oil-producing-Gulf states, as a better market for its A consumer goods than the cashstarved East bloc.

prefer to work in Eastern

Europe, where customs are more familiar than in the Middle East's

Muslim societies.

THAT'S THE | WHO CARES?

MERRY

**DUMBEST** 



#### HOROSCOPE

PORECAST FOR MONDAY, DECEMBER 25, 1989 By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

MERAL TENDENCIES: Mer-Construes. A good day to take it say and enjoy the company of and friends and companions and prefect on just what it is we want

Auto (March 21 to April 19) Gre more unusual types of gifts to year friends today. Take your attachment to glittering outside elebrations. Include prominent persons in your guests.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) A friendly couple from a distance favours. Expect an interesting gift

GENINE: (May 21 to June 21) It will be very good to entertain many friends in your home this Holiday Cesson. Be more practical in the gifts you give today.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) A wooderful atmosphere should prevail in your home this day. Don't be so busy with Christmas that you neglect your attach-

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Take your family out on the town as much as possible this Christmas day. Let your attachment see by practical presents, how devoted

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THE PARTY OF

YIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) You will have all sorts of exciting things to this Christmas day, Meals at good restaurants will be appreciated by your family. LIBRA: (September 23 to October

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Helping your attachment procee in a practical matter is your best way to show your attachment affection. This is a day to be careful of complications.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) New ideas of a beneficial nature trip with a family member can gain

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) An influential outside man has good ideas for better business success for you. Not stirring up tension with your attachment will save having

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Get your business affairs one who is experienced. Put off romantic activities until a better

for greater harmony.

22) Invite as many long-time friends and acquaintances into your home. In all the holiday

excitement, home is where your SCORPIO: (October 23 to Novem ber 21) Your home can be filled with friends going in and out. Enjoy them. Visiting a couple you like would bring your mate and you considerable pleasure.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Postpone financial ions with your family until after the holidays. Give really nice presents to your attachment.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Spend some money now in fixing up your residence. Go out on the town and have a wonderful time this Christmas day

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Invite your charming friends into your home this Christmas day. Return to romantic places with your attachment.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Have as many younger persons as possible in to celebrate the holidays. You will have time to see many of your good friends.

Today's child: If your child were born today he or she will be highly inspired early in life to achieve worthy goals and create new levels of understanding between dissent-ing groups. Musical training for self-expression will add another dimension to this well received

your attachment be aware of any of

SAGITTARIUS; (November 22 to

December 21) Control that res-

tlessness you feel while beneath

your own roof. Concentrate on

doing as many nice things and giving gifts to your attachment.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 fo January 20) All kinds of valuable

information is at your fingerties if

you but ask for it. Now is your time

to investigate all phases of two

projects before accepting either.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to Febru-

ary 19) Seeing and being with friends and your attachment at

outside recreations could be

wonderful. Inviting friends into

your home could stir up excite-

PISCES: (February 20 to March

20) This is the time to invite all

into your home for the holidays.

Teday's child: If your child were

hom today he or she have a very

active interest in sports but won't

professional level. This child

should develop business skills so

that they can remain close to the

field in management or product

life is largely up to you.

the doubts that concern you.

FORECAST FOR TUESDAY, DECEMBER 26, 1989

GENERAL TENDENCIES: its right place in your home. Take Don't get overtired or nervous your loved one to any amusements today as you deal with personalior recreations you plan. ties you can usually avoid. New arrangements in business matters SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Extent your business in-terests far beyond their present are favoured and old friends hold limits and boundaries. Don't let

will now be more helpful to you. A results to be desired.

ed now in conjunction with

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Finishing tixing up your home be-fore you invited guests in is in order. A serious talk with your attachment now will open the way

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Your residence will be the best site where you can entertain now. Be sure you are carrying through with the promises made to your

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Make sure everything is also in

new building not occupied so far.

with all essential services.

(AP) - Boris Becker grew up on clay, but has yet to conquer that particular tennis surface. Most experts believe Becker eventually will win a big one on

the slow stuff. But will he reach the same domination as he did on faster surfaces, gunning down opponents with his monster serve and fearless dive volleys?

"It's a different ball game on clay," said Becker, who imsaid Becker, who improved his clay-court game this year by reaching the final of the Monte Carlo open and the semi-finals in the French Open.

Sweden's Mats Wilander, who won three French Opens and lost two other finals in Paris in the 1980s that made him perhaps the premier clay-courter of the decade, says Becker's all-around game has improved a lot during

the past year. "But he has especially developed his ground strokes and second serve," said Wilander, who knows so well that ground strokes and patience are the key

STUTTGART, West Germany elements to success on clay. "On everywhere."

The one-time who dove for the championship at Wimbledon now is a rapidly maturing 22-year-old who has carried West Germany to the Davis Cup title for the second

At Stuttgart, Becker often won the long rallies as he dropped just 12 games in six sets to Stefan Edberg and Wilander in his two singles matches.

the mental patience and stroke diversity to battle a baseliner "A couple of years ago, I had

opponents to make a mistake.

Partner opens the bidding with one

A .- You have a hand which, only

on a good day, will produce a trick

on defense. On offense, however, it

has tremendous trick-taking poten

tial. Make a preemptive jump to

four hearts in an attempt to keep the

O.5-Both vulnerable, as South you

♦ KO9852 ♥ 63 ♥ J104 ♠ K8

A .- We won't quibble with a jump

to four spades, the same action you

would take had partner opened the

bidding with one no trump. Howev-

er, we would prefer a jump to three

spades (forcing) to give partner a

choice of contracts. If he persist

with no trump, we would respect his

decision because our minor-suit

Q.6-Neither vulnerable, as South

**≜AKJ63 ♡K95 ○Q92 ♣63** 

A.—A difficult choice. A jump to

three spades overstates the quality

and length of the suit; four dia-

monds bypasses three no trump;

and three no trump with an un-

stopped suit is unthinkable. The

least of evils is to bid two hearts.

That action is forcing. If partner

bids 2 NT, raise to game. If he raises

hearts, he must have an unbalanced

hand and you can jump to five

The bidding has proceeded: North East South West

Pass 1 +

What do you bid now?

cards should prove most useful.

North East South

opponents out of the auction.

The bidding has proceeded:

What action do you take?

West

you hold:

heart. What do you respond?

### GOREN BRIDGE

ANSWERS TO WEEKLY BRIDGE OUIZ

O.1-As South, vulnerable, you hold: **2763** ∇962 ○AK54 **4**652 Partner opens the bidding with three no trump (25-27 points). What do

A .-- Your ace and king are wonderful assets, but your square shape has its disadvantages. We would invite slam by raising to four no trump (no. that's not Blackwood), and we would not be disappointed if part-

O.2-Both vulnerable, as South you ±KJ8 ♥984 ♦654 ±A1063

The bidding has proceeded: North East South West Pass 1 NT Pass What action do you take?

A .- Partner has asked you to proceed to game if you are in the upper range for your response. Since you promised 6-10 points, you are right on the borderline. While your flat shape is a liability, your intermediare cards offset that flaw. Raise to three no trump.

Q.3-Neither vulnerable, as South you hold: **♠ K95** ♥762 ♦842 **♣**AO93 Partner opens the bidding with one spade. What do you respond?

A.—Even if you play four-card ma-jors, partner usually has five cards in the suit for a one-spade opening. Therefore, we prefer a raise to two spades over a one-no-trump response—the former is more encouraging and we have a maximum in

Q.4-Neither vulnerable, as South you hold: **45** ♥J107652 ♦QJ53 **493** 

THE Daily Crossword by Wilson McBeeth

a fast surface, Boris hits the ball so early. He hits winners from

consecutive year.

A few years ago, Becker lacked

stroke for stroke. to make the winner within the first three or four shots," Becker said. "Now it's almost as if I'm

Becker, now 36-8 overall in Davis Cup play, including 27-2 in singles, incidentally lost his last cup match on clay in 1987 against Sergio Casal of Spain at Barce-

waiting at the baseline for my

On next year's new Association

of Tennis Professional's (ATP) tour, Becker could get plenty of clay-court practice before it's time for the French Open, which ends June 10. Most of the championship series on clay in Europe will take place in April and May, forming a real circuit.

Becker may face some problems adjusting to a new racket. He recently signed a contract reportedly worth almost \$6.5 million with U.S. Tech, an American company. Becker will start using the new racket next March, just before the European clay-court season opens.

1989 was best year yet for Becker

But Becker's next goal is the Australian Open next month, when he hopes to tkae over the number 1 spot from Ivan Lendi on the new ranking system.
"I'm the unofficial number 1

now," said Becker, who captured both the Wimbledon and U.S. Open titles this year and was named the game's official world champion this month by an international tennis federation panel.

Becker never got past the quarter-finals down under, and "I just hope I can win a couple of more matches this time," he said.

"I've played terrible in Melbourne, but the only thing I can do is go there and give it my best shot. And that's what I'm going to do next month."

But it will be difficult to play as well as he did against the Swedes in the Davis Cup final.

"Almost unthinkable," said West Germany's captain Niki Pilic after Becker's brilliant Davis Cup weekend. "Unbelievable," said John-

Anders Sjogren, the Swedish captain. Becker was shocked, too. "It was probably the best match ever for me," he said after routing Wilander in the first reverse singles, clinching the Ger-

"The score was 2-1 for Germany and it was such an important match. I was playing for two hours and I couldn't miss the ball. It was difficult for me to believe." Becker had his best year in 1989, making \$2.2 million second

only to Lendi. "This year, I've put the pieces together," he said. "I think every player has his peak after four or five years playing on the circuit." But Becker thinks the more

vou win the harder it gets. "My ambition has always been to get better, but there's no way to improve on what I just did said Becker, who's coached by Australian-born Bob Brett. "This was the best Becker

you'll ever see indors. It will be very, very difficult for me to play better than I did against Mats. Hopefully, once or twice in the next few years I'll be able to play again like that. I just hope my consistency is there and hope l can raise my game for the impor-tant events. That's what I'm aim-

So how does Becker compare the Davis Cup with a grand slam

"I think everything should stand for itself," he said. "When you're on a team the spirit is very important and that's the key to our win."

"So it's more fun to play on a team when you're together for 8-10 days. In a grand slam tourney the thrill of the whole thing is also very high. It's difficult to compare them both.

The Germans' Davis Cup triumph, the first in consecutive years since Sweden won it in 1984-85, capped a great year for Becker. It came after a pair of disappointing setbacks against two Swedish Davis Cuppers in his last tournament this fall.

Two weeks before his sizzling mans victory in the best-of-five Stuttgart showing, Becker was overpowered by Edberg's serveand-volley attack in the Masters final in New York. In early November, Jan Gunnarsson, beat Becker at his own game in the

round of 16 at the Stockholm

Few players have carried a Davis Cup champion team like Becker.

"The only other player I can think of is Bjorn Borg, who played such an important role when Sweden won the Davis Cup for the first time in 1975," said Sjogren.

Becker is likely to keep his leading role on the German team. But he hates the word "one-man

"I can't win it by myself," he said. "I need a second singles player and a good doubles player. I need a whole team in order to have a good and happy 10 days

Borg's accomplishments - he won five straight Wimbledon titles and six French Opens created a tennis boom in Sweden that gave this small country of just 8.2 million such stars as Wilander, Edberg and Anders Jarryd, the world's top-ranked doubles player.

A similar boom in Germany could trigger an even stronger German Davis Cup team.

Sweden once had four players in the top 10 and that is hard to match," said Becker. "But we have improved quite a lot already. All members of the German team have improved their rankings this year. We also have a couple of younger players coming up and we hope in two, three years that we have a couple of top 20 players."

When Becker broke through in 1985, winning the first of three Wimbledon titles, just over 1.5

million players were registered with the German Tennis Federation (DTB).

Now more than 2 million are registered. Another million are playing on public courts. More than 6 million expressed an interest in playing if there were more courts, according to DTB statistics. Many German boys and girls want to become a new Beck-

er or Steffi Graf. As recently as 1984, the year before Becker's first Wimbledon triumph, it would have been easy to shake hands with every spectator at a Davis Cup tie with Roma-

nia in Berlin. Five years later, at Munich, the German federation could easily have sold 30,000 tickets for the semifinal against the United

Becker also is looking forward to taking his skills to East Germany, where tennis is a minor

"The (Berlin) Wall being opened has opened new prospects for me," he said. "I have been approached by East Germany, and I hope to set up a three-four city exhibition tour to show the public my game. Of course. I would do this for no-

Becker has already visited girlfriend Karen Schultz' parents in East Germany and was mobbed by fans in public places.

### Absence of key Dutch players sparks row with federation

AMSTERDAM, Netherlands (AP) - Two key players in the Netherlands' national soccer team weren't there when the Dutch lost 1-0 to Brazil on Wednesday, and their power-

house of Euroepean soccer. Marco van Basten and Frank Rijkaard, ace strikers with AC Milan, refused to turn up for the encounter in the run up to next year's world championship in Rome, forcing coach Thijs Libets to include four root ers in his lineup.

The dismal match that followed

left the ruling European champion at Brazil's mercy and could have led to carnage for the Dutch if the South Americans had tried the South Americans had tried is unheard of anywhere else arder.

Hours before the match, van

in Europe, "Royal Dutch Soccer Federation spokesman

Basten said he had to recuperate from a World Cup match by AC Milan in Tokyo last Sunday. Riikard said he had the flu.

Their cancellations have been termed a "wildcat strike" in the Dutch media, and former Dutch coach Rinus Michels has accused Rijkaard and van Basten of "reprehensible" behaviour.

A third Dutch AC Milan player, world famous scorer Rund Gullit, recently underwent his third knee operation, putti role in the Rome championships

seriously in jeopardy.
"Just cancelling a match because you're not feeling that well and not even bothering to turn up

Fred Racke told the Associated Press Friday.

"It's harmed our performance because we weren't able to line ub the team we wanted. Our relationship (with van Basten and Riikaard) has become a lot more tense because of the affair,' Racke said.

He claimed the cancellations followed extensive stonewalling by AC Milan, which was apparently reluctant to let the

"First we got referred to a doctor, then the doctor pointed to a club official, then the official told us to go to the coach," Racke complained.

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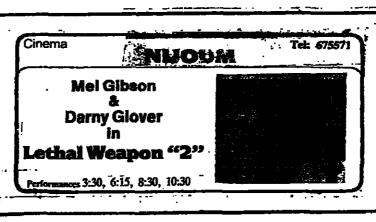
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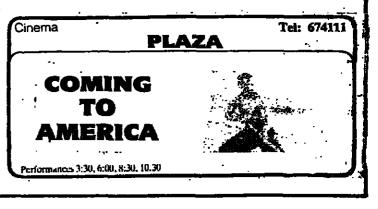
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### S. African beaches open for all

DURBAN, South Africa (AP) — Black and white children helped each other build sandcastles. Their older brothers played soccer together. White lifeguards shouted warnings in Zulu.

theid.

After tears of debate, protests and occasional violence, South Africa has opened all its beaches to all races and buried one of its most visible and resented apartheid practices.

As recently as August, police used whips and dogs to keep blacks off segregated sand. But at Durban's hotel-lined beachfront, the busiest in the country, the attitude Sunday was swim and let

"I preferred segregated beaches," said Charles Erasmus, a vacationing white. "But what am I going to do? Spite myself and not go swimming? The law's been changed and we'll have to accept it.

President F.W. de Klerk last month declared an end to whitesonly beaches, settling a conflict that arose every December when hundreds of thousands of South Africans travel to the coast for vacation.

For authorities, opening the beaches has proved far easier than keeping them segregated in the face of mounting black pro-

Shortly before de Klerk's dec-

TOKYO (R) — Japan's defence

budget is set to slip next year

below the key level of one per

cent of gross national product

(GNP), though actual military

spending will rise, Finance Ministry officials said Sunday.

economy means a proposed 5.5

per cent increase in 1990-91 de-

fence spending, to 4.14 trillion yen (\$29 billion), will still put it

beneath one per cent of GNP for

But the drop back below the

controversial defence spending

ceiling scrapped by former Prime-

Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone in

the first time in four years.

Strong growth of the Japanese

laration, the Durban City Council spent six hours debating whether to open the last remaining stretches of segregated beach.

Their solution: Remove the embarrassing "whites only" signs but keep the law in effect.

Days after de Klerk's announcement, the council voted 24-5 to integrate the beaches. Morris Fynn, a mixed-race man who was arrested several times for cutting down "whites only" beach signs, ceremoniously buried his saw in the sand to mark the formal death of beach apar-

Three years ago, Alian Hendrickse, the first mixed-race member of the cabinet, invited the press to watch him take a dip at a whites-only beach at Port

One of his next public acts was to apologise for his swim after receiving a tongue-lashing from then-President P.W. Botha.

Anti-apartheid groups targetted beaches along with other segregated facilities when they launched a nationwide defiance campaign in August.

When protesters arrived at a

1987 has less to do with thawing

East-West tensions than with the

"At this stage, we remain very

Nakasone's decision to scrap

the 11-year-old ceiling in 1987,

aiming to increase Japanese self-

reliance in defence, was criticised

by some of its neighbours in Asia who were worried about a possi-

ble resurgence of Japanese mili-

Tokyo's defence budget is the

third biggest in the world, after

the United States and the Soviet

prudent and cautious (about East-West relations)," one offi-

booming Japanese economy.

cial told reporters.

Woman killed in Christmas Eve storm

BRISBANE, Australia (AP) - One woman died, eight light

planes were wrecked and 45,000 homes in the Brisbane area were left without power by a violent Christmas Eve storm, police said.

the storm hit Bribie Island, 56 kilometres north of Brisbane,

Sunday afternoon. Her body was recovered Sunday night by

police divers. The storm swept across a wide area, uprooting trees

and damaging cars and houses. Police said eight light aircraft were

overturned at one airport and that many homes were likely to be

without power until Christmas morning. In some southern

suburbs of Brisbane, 7.5 centimetres of rain fell in 15 minutes,

LOS ANGELES (AP) — A raging pre-dawn fire chased 106 residents from a 14-story condominium, burned two construction

sites and set the roofs of five expensive homes ablaze before it was

doused. Five firefighters suffered minor injuries and an 89-year-

old woman was hospitalised for smoke inhalation. The fire broke

out around before dawn in a four-story apartment building that was in the final stages of construction and spread to the

condominium tower and to a three-story apartment building. It

hopped Wilshire Boulevard, one of the city's main thoroughfares,

and ignited chemical drums at a construction site and residential

roofs downwind. The cause was unknown but arson teams were

investigating, said city fire chief Donald Manning. Four hundred

firefighters battled the blaze in the neighbourhood between the

exclusive Los Angeles Country Club and the University of

California, Los Angeles. Firefighters had to battle thick smoke

and extreme heat to evacuate the apartment building's residents.

6 hurt, high-rise evacuated in fire

accompanied by thunder and lightning.

Japan's defence budget to fall below 1%

beach near Cape Town, it was cordoned off and accompanied by signs saying, "police dog training

When the demonstrators proceeded, they were met with tear gas, whips and police dogs. Several people were injured.

Local authorities have com-

piled with de Klerk's proclamation, though under protest in some cases. But there have been no reports of racial violence, or even serious overcrowding, since the beaches were opened.

"Look, there are thousands of people here and no confrontations," said Walter Buthelezi, a black 19-year-old who was visiting the beachfront with his sisters. "There was never any need for segregated beaches." But Durban's Mayor Derrick

Waterson disagrees. This wouldn't have happened easily five years ago, conservative whites weren't ready for it," he

Waterson and his council have received more than 400 complaitns from whites. In the town of Mossel Bay, about 2,500 whites have signed a petition asking for a return to segregated

Many whites insist they are not racist and say they want separate beaches because of "cultural dif-

Union, but that is partly because

the Finance Ministry for the fiscal

year beginning in April calls for the 5.5 per cent increase in de-

fence spending, following a 5.9

they rejected many defence agen-

cy requests for new equipment,

including 30 new tanks and a 136

billion yen (\$940 million) des-

troyer with a sophisticated Aegis

Instead the proposed budget

put more emphasis on improved logistics and support services.

Finance Ministry officials said

per cent increase.

apons system.

The draft budget proposed by

of high personnel expenses.

Some blacks swim in their underwear and strip naked when washing off under the shower nozzles at the beach, the whites

"It's mostly older people that get offended, but when we talk to the blacks they always cooperate," said lifeguard Liam Hal-

Halforty and his colleagues have been taking a crash course in Zulu to help them communicate with black bathers. Roughly 15 per cent of the beach crowd was black this weekend, traditionally one of the busiest of the year in Durban.

"I'm sure some whites stayed away," said Carol Cilliers, who is white. "It will take about two or three years before they will come back to these beaches.

De Klerk has promised to remove all discriminatory laws, and most so-called "petty apartheid" measures already have been scrapped.

The major remaining areas of segregation are public schools, residential areas, and public hospitals. De Klerk has pledged to keep these separate for whites who want them, and many still

Becahes are one thing, schools and neighbourhoods are another," said Leo Kotze, a white vacationer. "I think whites will resist those changes.'

"The Finance. Ministry agreed to the minimum budget needed to

support an efficient and balanced self-defence forces in the final

year of the mid-term plan," one

Finance Ministry officials said

spending to help the United

States offset the cost of troops

stationed in Japan would rise

more than 40 per cent next fiscal

year, to 45.9 billion yen (\$320

Strapped with a big budget deficit, Washington has been

pressing Tokyo to pick up a big-ger share of the tab for keeping U.S. troops in Japan.

ministry official said.

### Gorbachev is Time man of the '80s

NEW YORK (AP) — Mikhail Gorbachev, whose political and economic reforms in the Soviet Union sparked a revolution that: shattered Communist control of Eastern Europe, was named man of the decade by Time magazine.

"Somehow confining our choice to 1989 seemed inadequate, and thus we named Gorbachev man of the decade," the editors of the U.S. weekly newsmagazine said.

The Soviet president previously named Time's man of the year in 1987, was chosen because he is "the force behind the most momentous of the '80s and because what he has already done will almost certainly shape the future," Time said.

The only precedent for such a choice by the magazine was its selection of Winston Churchill as man of the half-century in 1949. "This year, as world attention ricocheted from the stirrings of



Mikhail Gorbachev

democracy in the USSR to the massacre in Peking and the peaceful revolts in Eastern Europe, it became clear that we Lindbergh; last year's winner was were witnessing a sequence of Earth and planet of the year.

events that began well before 1989 and whose impact would extend into the next decade, perhaps the

next century," the magazine said. The magazine said Gorbachev "has accelerated history, making possible the end of one of its most disreputable episodes, the imposition of a cruel and unnatural order on hundreds of millions of

Gorbachev becomes only the fourth non-American designated twice by the the magazine. One was Churchill (1940 and 1949); the others were Soviet leader Josef Stalin (1939 and 1942) and China's Deng Xiaoping (1978 and 1985).

Time has been naming a man of the year since 1927, choosing the "peson who, for better or worse, has had the most impact on the year's events." The first award went to aviator Charles

### **East Germany's New Forum** to take part in free elections

EAST BERLIN (R) - East Ger- son to democracy but that group New Froum announced Sunday it would contest free elections next May, shedding its past reluctance to enter fully into the

The grousp told the East German News Agency (ADN) its main aim would remain overseeing East Germany's transiti- man said.

many's umbrella opposition it would also put up its own candidates for the Volkskammer (parliament).

"As a political group we remain open for citizens with diffe-rent philosophies and opinions who share the common aim of a democratic society working together," a New Froum spokes-

The decision, taken at a meeting Saturday, appeared to be a compromise between members who wanted to turn New Forum into a political party and those who wanted to retain its role as a citizens' initiative movement.

Since New Forum emerged as a powerful voice of protest in September, the country has also opened its borders to the West,

WASHINGTON (AP) — A fugitive convicted as a leader of a cocaine-smuggling operation was flown to the United States Sunday after the Colombian government turned him over to U.S. authorities, the U.S. Marshals

Victor Eduardo Mera-Mosquera, 36, is the 11th person extradited from Colombia since that country began its crackdown against drug traffickers in August, U.S. Marshals Service Director K. Michael Moore said in a statement.

in 1984, just before the trial in New York where he was found guilty of numerous cocaine offences, said the statement.

The fugitive was arrested by Colombian police in the city of Cali on Oct. 13 and turned over Saturday night to U.S. Marshals. who flew him back to New York City early Sunday. He was being held at an undisclosed location pending a court hearing to set a. date for his sentencing, the U.S. Marshals Service said.

United States as he was awaiting trial in February 1984, when he

was freed in the mistaken belief tha the had been ordered re-

While still a fugitive, Mera-Mosquera was convicted in U.S. district court in Manhattan along with 10 other people of the drug charges. The indictment charged that he was one of two leaders of an organistion that dealt in "massive quantities of cocaine," the Marshals Service said.

The Marshals Service carries out the extraditions of persons in foreign nations who are charged with violating federal laws in the United States.

### Colombian drug smuggler extradited

Service said.

Mera-Mosquera, a native of

Colombia, fled the United States

According to the Marshals Service, Mera-Mosquera fled the

### Czech party denounces Ceausescu

VIENNA (R) — Czechoslova- and First Secretary Vasil Mohor- tions to democracy, the Polish kia's Communist Party has con- ita said. demned toppled Romanian President Nicolae Ceausescu for brutal repression during his rule, Czechoslovak Radio reported

the just struggle of the Romanian working people and youth against the ruthless dictatorship of personal power, which has not hesitated to use mass murders to extend its historically condemned existence," the statement from

by the Ceausescu clique and

Polish President Wojciech Jaruzelski said instigators of Romania's national tragedy had not learned from other countries News Agency (PAP) reported.

draw any conclusions from the Television.

"Having ignored and even criticised this experience, they came up against an objective pro-cess of a historical development

#### party leader Ladislav Adamec that had made peaceful transiof societies." Scandinavia smokers fight back

STOCKHOLM (AP) -Shoved into corners, banned from local flights, excluded from some hotel floors, smokers in Scandinavia say they have had enough and will fight

for their rights. Smokers have banded together in Sweden, Norway, Finland and Denmark to combat perceived discrimination, lobby against new anti-smoking laws and share tricks for sneaking a smoke against the

"We want to protect smokers' rights. We don't want to encourage people to smoke, especially not young people,"

said Bengt Oste, chairman of the Swedish lobby, Smokepeace. "Too many smoking bans were coming from all over the

place. It was about time somebody did something about it," said Tore Dinesen, explaining the origin of the Danish Smokers' Organisation, Henry. In their latest action, the

pro-smoke groups published a pamphlet on how to avoid the smoking bans on local flights by Finnair and SAS, the Scandinavian Airlines System. The rule was extended on Nov. 1 to any international flight less than 100 minutes long on these airlines.

The Smokers' Guide to Smokers' Flights in the Nordic area lists flights by other airlines which have stopovers in the region and have smoking sections. To get to Copenhagen from

Helsinki, the pamphlet says, a traveller can fly Pan Am to Stockholm and transfer to a Soviet Aeroflot aircraft to the Danish capital. A heavy smoker might have time for two cigarettes on each leg.

Finnair claims it was the first, airline to introduce non-smoking seats more than 20 years

Smokepeace, which adopted the symbol of an Indian in feathered headdress puffing a peace pipe, says it just wants a fair deal for smokers and non-

smokers alike. In 10 months it has attracted 1.500 members. Some are nonsmokers offended by discrimination, Oste said, and 53 per cent are women.

"Smokers have to back" down a bit, so as not to harm or irritate non-smokers." said Oste, an anchorman for Swedish television news who says he has been a pipe smoker for 45

At the same time, fair provision should be made for smokers, he said.

"Too often, company managers and politicians are making decisions without asking workers," Oste said. Henry, launched two years

ago by a Danish wine and tobacco merchant, enlisted Denmark's pipe-smoking Foreign Minister Uffe Ellemann-Jensen in an advertising campaign last spring to plead; Tolerance and consideration are the basis of living

Although it doesn't release financial figures, Henry reportedly gets some funding from the Danish tobacco industry. To ward off lung cancer and

heart disease, Norway has enacted some of the world's toughest anti-smoking laws, which critics say make lighting up indoors illegal almost everywhere except at home.

The Swedish parliament is in the early stage of drafting a new comprehensive law, which many legislators want to fashion after the Norwegian model. Steps toward a similar bill in Denmark were interrupted by an election and have been dropped for now.

Among Norway's regula-

tions is a ban on smoking in any office occupied by more than one person, even if everyone in the room is a smoker. Smoking was outlawed in schools, hospitals, theatre lob-

bies and public transportation. Selling tobacco to youths under 18 is illegal.

Many Scandinavian hotels

have no-smoking rooms, and. some have barred tobacco from entire floors. Most work places have de-

signated smoking areas. The Stockholm daily newspaper Aftonbladet banned smoking throughout its new nine-story building, except in a few glassed-in rooms by the coffee machines on each floor. They are so poorly ventilated that workers refer to them as "gas chambers."

High tobacco taxes also are meant as a deterrent. In Norway, cigarettes cost about \$4 (29 kroner) for a pack of 20, slightly more than elsewhere in Scandinavia. Roll-your-own tobacco is becoming more popular in Denmark, where pipe tobacco is taxed less heavily.

One dodge from smoking bans is snuff, a plug of tobacco that many Scandinavians stick under their upper lips, instead of smoking it.

Oslo adopted an ambitious and, critics say, unrealistic target of making Norway smoke-free by the end of the

The critics note that while tobacco has not been advertised since 1973, four out of 10 Norwegians smoke, and consumption is rising by 500 tons of tobacco a year. Other Scandinavian govern-

ments have gone no further than to endorse the World. Health Organization's goal of reducing smoking by 25 per cent in the next decade.



#### Reagan offers help to woman on welfare

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Former U.S. President Ronald Reagan has offered his assistance to a woman on welfare whose home was burglarised of nearly \$1,200 in Christmas gifts as she visited her cancer-stricken daughter. Reagan told Blanche Griffin, 34, in a phone call while she was at a police station that he and his wife, Nancy, would help her in any way they could, said police Capt. Carley Mitchell. Residents, police officers, firefighters and local vendors also have railied to the aid of Ms. Griffin. The woman had just returned home from visiting her 9-year-old daughter, Vernica, at Cedars-Sinai Medical Centre, when she discovered the theft of gifts she said she had saved money for all year. The stolen gifts included a battery-powered toy police motorcycle, dolls and a black-board. Also stolen were household items and all her children's clothing.

#### Jackson attends Christmas show

NEW YORK (AP) - Singer Michael Jackson was among the hordes of tourists who attended the Radio City Music Hall Christmas show and shopped at a toy-store this week. Jackson drew curious crowds and a gaggle of photographers as he stopped at ... F.A.O. Schwarz and then took in the afternoon Christmas show at, Rockefeller Centre. Leaving themusic hall by a back entrance, Jackson tried to remain incognito by wearing a hat, dark glasses, a scarf pulled up over his nose and mouth, and not even one glove. The daily news reported that Jackson got to meet the animals from the Christmas spectacle backstage, and that he kissed the

#### Prisoners sacrifice cigarettes for poor

CINCINNATI, Ohio (AP) -The Christmas menu at the county jail of turkey, dressing and cranberry sauce started some in-mates thinking that they may be eating better than some people on the outside. Len Singleton, who is serving time for disconduct and resisting arrest, wrote a letter to Sheriff Simon Leis Jr., asking permission to organise a collection among the inmates. Some 500 inmates at the Hamilton County Justice Centre and Cincinnati's Community Correctional Institution responded by giving up cigarettes and snacks, and Singleton presented a check for \$361 and 41 cents to the Freestore-Foodbank, a community organisation that feeds the

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#### 'Rambo claus'

MONROVIA (R) — Santa Claus took time off from delivering presents to arrest two robbery suspects. Police Sergeant Don Lacher, dressed as Santa, was delivering food and toys to the needy here Wednesday when he received a burglar alarm call over his police car radio. He found a man and a woman loading stolen goods worth \$2,000, including a television set, into a car. Pulling his revolver from beneath the pillow stuffed into his red trousers, Lacher, 35, shouted: "Santasays lay down on the ground." When one of the suspects tried to get up, a police spokesman said on Thursday, Lacher put his foot on the man's ankle and said: "Santa knows who is naughty and who is nice." David Villalobos, 26, and Anna Maria Gallegos, were arrested on suspicion of burglary and having a loaded gun. Now lacher has to live down his new police station nickname — "Rambo Claus."

#### Global weather (major world cities).

T T T T Weath AMSTERDAM ... 03 37 14 57 Cloudy
ATHENS ... 10 50 18 64 Cloudy
BAHRAN ... 15 59 20 68 Clear
BANGKOK ... 19 66 33 91 Clear
BUENOS ASRES 22 72 32 90 Clear
CARCO ... 10 50 20 68 Clear
CHICAGO ... 12 -11 48 08 Cloudy
COPENHAGEN 04 39 08 45 Cloudy
COPENHAGEN 04 39 08 45 Cloudy
FRANKFURT ... 03 37 08 48 Cloudy
GENEVA ... 07 34 09 48 Cloudy
HONG KONG ... 13 55 15 59 Rain
ISTANEUL ... 10 50 11 52 Cloudy
LONDON ... 11 52 13 55 Rain -14 08 08 22 Cloudy
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### **WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF**

Record cold wave hits Florida

FLORIDA (AP) - A cold snap across the United States has been blamed for the deaths of at least 73 people by Sunday, after setting record low temperatures in 112 places, the national weather service said. Yankton, South Dakota, at 31 degrees below zero Fahrenheit (34 degrees below zero Celsius) was the official coldest spot in the lower 48 states Saturday. Twenty-six states have been hit by frigid weather since Dec. 15. Cold and snow burst into Florida Saturday, threatening fruit and vegetable crops, as Arctic air forced temperatures to more record lows. Three utilities in Texas had to institute "rolling blackouts" because they couldn't keep up with demand for power. Other utilities asked customers to conserve power and shut off service to some commercial clients, and heating oil and propane were high priced and in short supply in some areas. Power was also in short supply in Virginia and Florida. Low-temperature records for the date were set or tied in Alabama, Arkansas, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Michigan, Mississippi, Missouri, Nebraska, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Vermont, Virginia, West Virginia and the District of Columbia. But temperatures in many areas were not quite so low as Friday, and a change was edging in from the west.

#### Ershad reshuffles cabinet

DHAKA (R) - President Hossain Mohammad Ershad Sunday dismissed four ministers and reshuffled six others, an official announcement said. Those sacked were Forest and Environment Minister Mayeechul Islam, Textile Minister Retired Colonel M.A. Malek, Food Minister Retired Major Iobal Hossain Chowdhury and State Minister of Industries Noor Mohammad Khan. No reason was given for their removal. The announcement said Ershad also reallocated portfolios of six ministers. Deputy Prime Minister Shah Moazzem Hossain was moved from the Ministry of Labour and Manpower and put in charge of the Ministry of Food. Sirajul Hossain Khan, minister of relief and rehabilitation, was transferred to the Ministry of Labour and Manpower. Former Jute Minister Retired Lt. Colonel Zafar Imam was sent to the Ministry of Forest and Environment while Youth and Sports Minister A.B.M. Ruhul Amin Howlader became the new minister of textiles. Tajul Islam Chowdhury, state minister of agriculture has been transferred to the Ministry of Youth and Sports, while State Minister for Information Syed Deedar Bakht

#### 3 Ecuadoreans die trying to catch gifts

was moved to the Ministry of Cultural Affairs.

GUAYAQUIL, Ecuador (AP) - At least three people died Saturday when hundreds of people rushed to grab Christmas gifts that the mayor threw from the balcony of the town hall, police said. A television report showed the crowd surging to catch the gifts. It also aired footage of people trying to revive the victims through artificial resuscitation. Police said three people died by asphyxiation and 20 people were injured. Mayor Elsa Bucaram, of the Populist Ecuadorean Roldosist Party, decided to throw the Christmas presents from the balcony against the advice of some who warned of the dangers.

#### Mexican police assault journalists

MEXICO CITY (AP) — A band of city police officers allegedly robbed a newspaper reporter and shot her in the head and severely beat two other journalists at a downtown street corner, news reports said. Five officers on Saturday allegedly confronted reporters Elvira de Marcelo Esquivel of the Mexico City newspaper El Dia, Israel Rodriguez of the government newspaper El Nacional and Eduardo Barrera Valencia of Channel 11 on Balderas Street, a busy city theroughfare, the Browleior News Agency reported. The officers allegedly beat and pictol-whipped the reporters and the: Ms. Esquivel in the head, Excelsior said. Ms. Esquivel was in a coma and listed in critical condition at the Red Cross Hospital in the Polanco District, said Alejandro Bello, a doctor at the facility. Rodriguez and Barrera Valencia were in serious condition, Bello said. There were no arrests early Sunday. City Attorney Ignacio Morales Lechuga promised a full investigation.

#### forces of power connected with it experience of other states and against their own people is a nations aiming at democracy and tragic confirmation of the at peaceful departure from an "We voice our full support for murderous criminality which the anachronistic system of executing Stalinist deformation of totalita-

rian policy can lead to."